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TOWERING SUSPENSE

Climber hauled in by police after scaling Midtown Trump Tower. 8

Slayings raise joggers' fears for safety. 2

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'SAUSAGE' FEST

Seth Rogen made a cartoon about talking food, but it's definitely not for kids. 24

SONY

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

US COURT UPHOLDS STATE LAWS LIMITING MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

A federal appeals court said on Wednesday the U.S. Federal Communications Commission could not block two states from setting limits on municipal broadband expansion. The decision is a win for private-sector providers of broadband internet. Cities in Tennessee and North Carolina had sought to expand municipal broadband networks beyond current boundaries, but faced laws forbidding or placing onerous restrictions on the expansions. The FCC voted in 2015 to issue an order seeking to pre-empt those state laws.

REUTERS

FLORIDA COP KILLS WOMAN DURING ROLE-PLAY EXERCISE

2 A Florida police officer shot and killed a 73-year-old woman in a "tragic accident" during an exercise with local residents that was meant to involve simulated lethal force, authorities said on Wednesday. Mary Knowlton was hit by a live round fired by an officer on Tuesday night at a two-hour event hosted by the Punta Gorda Police Department at its academy for about 35 members of the community. "I am devastated for everyone involved in this unimaginable event," Police Chief Tom Lewis said in a statement. "Everyone involved in this accident is in a state of overwhelming shock and grief." Knowlton, who according to local media was 73, had been selected for a role-playing exercise involving decisions about when to use lethal force, the statement said. She was pronounced dead after being taken to a local hospital.

REUTERS

DELTA CANCELS FLIGHTS, EXPECTS NORMAL OPERATIONS SOON

3 Delta Air Lines on Wednesday canceled more than 250 flights and upended thousands of travelers' plans for the third day in a row after a power outage hit its computer systems, though it forecast a return to normal operations later this afternoon. Delta, the No. 2 U.S. airline by passenger traffic, said systems that allow customer service agents to process check-ins and dispatch aircraft are now functioning normally. Most of Wednesday's delays and cancellations are the result of flight crews being displaced or running up against maximum allowed work hours, it said.

REUTERS

Running groups talk safety after two female joggers slain

A woman jogs through a wooded park. DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Some are running inside, while others are discussing carrying defensive weapons.

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On Tuesday, a New York woman failed to return from her jog on a trail through a marshy area near her home. Hours later, she was found dead, beaten, raped and strangled. On Sunday, a woman jogging through the woods near her parents' Massachusetts home met the same tragic fate.

Massachusetts authorities haven't ruled that the deaths of Karina Vetrano, 30, of Howard Beach in Queens, and Vanessa Marcotte, 27, who was visiting her family in Princeton, are related, but New York investigators told The New York Times that they do not believe they are.

Still, both tragedies have affected running communities in those areas and beyond.

Within the Alley Pond Striders, a running group in Queens, people are emphasizing safety along with running in memory of the victims. Two women organized a "Run for Karina" through Forest Park on Saturday.

"I am glad someone is doing this," Maria Torres said about the event. "I was going to run in her honor as well as the new victim."

"Thank you for organizing this run," Edina Leiher said. "I wanted to show my support and did not know what would be the best way to do it. This is it."

In Massachusetts, Stephen Laska, president of the Central Mass Striders running organization, has been fielding concerns around runners safety in the recent days.

"All runners are always concerned about safety, whether getting lost, getting hit or having some sort of health emergency," Laska said. "Obviously, the dynamic has changed now that this horrible thing has happened, and happened so close to home."

The Central Mass Striders have about 700 runners in total, and Laska said that women make up half of that number. Online, runners talk about the need to be aware of their surroundings, to carry a phone and to keep their music at a low volume or to listen with only one earbud in.

"The other part of the discussion that's become more heated and controversial is should women be carrying defensive equipment when out on their runs," Laska said. Runners have brought up the idea of carrying everything from mace to devices intended to scratch attackers and collect DNA."

Though Philadelphia hasn't been as recently affected, running safety is still a concern there. The Philly Runners group advises their athletes to take a self defense class and hosts a message board where residents can find running buddies.

Zach Fishoff, an employee at Philadelphia Running, a running equipment store, said that his girlfriend has changed her exercise habits in light of the recent attacks.

"She started running inside now, just this week, because she heard what happened," he said.

At the store, Fishoff said he often sells runners pepper spray and, as the fall comes and it gets darker sooner, running lights.

"There's only so much you can do," Fishoff said. "You have to stay safe and smart."

GoFundMe page created to help find Queens jogger's killer

Karina Vetrano and her father KATRINA VETRANO'S GOFUNDME PAGE

A GoFundMe page created by the parents of slain Howard Beach jogger Karina Vetrano is trying to raise $100,000 in an effort to solve her rape and murder.

"Somebody need to know something, say something — and maybe with this money they will," Vetrano's father Philip told the NY Daily News.

Karina Vetrano, 30, was reported missing last Tuesday by her father. She was found dead later that evening in a marsh off the Belt Parkway, just less than half a mile away from her home in Queens. Investigators believe she was strangled and sexually assaulted, according to the Daily News.

"We need your help in bringing this vicious animal to face the most ever punishment allowable by law," a post on the GoFundMe page reads.

Money raised by the effort will help supplement the $20,000 reward the NYPD has already offered for information on the murdered jogger.

Vetrano's parents created the fundraiser along with several other Howard Beach residents.

So far, the Karina Vetrano Memorial Reward Fund has raised $77,137 of the $100,000 goal. ARIELLE KAPLAN

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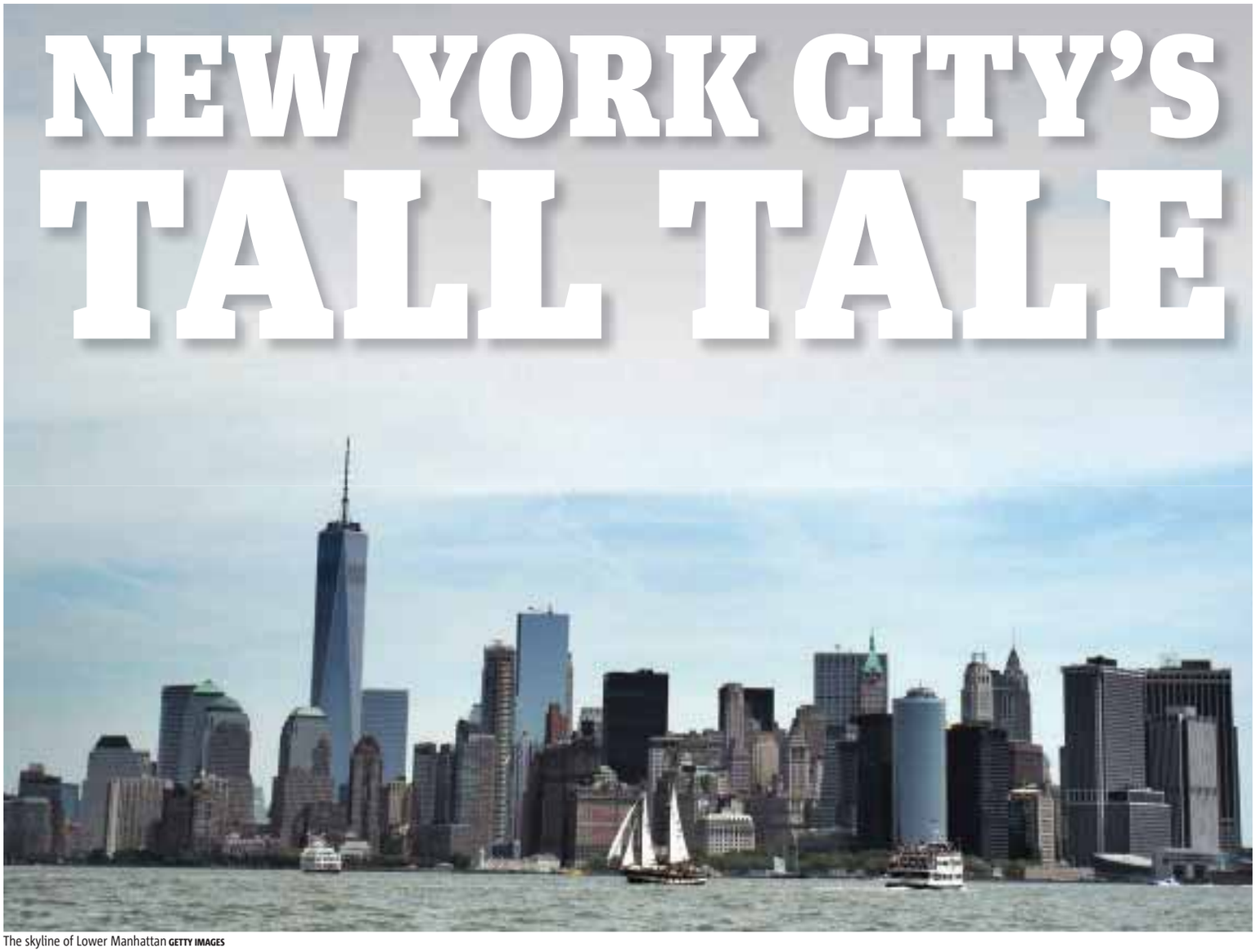

The skyline of Lower Manhattan GETTY IMAGES

Taller buildings are on the rise: Of the tallest skyscrapers, only the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building were constructed before 2006.

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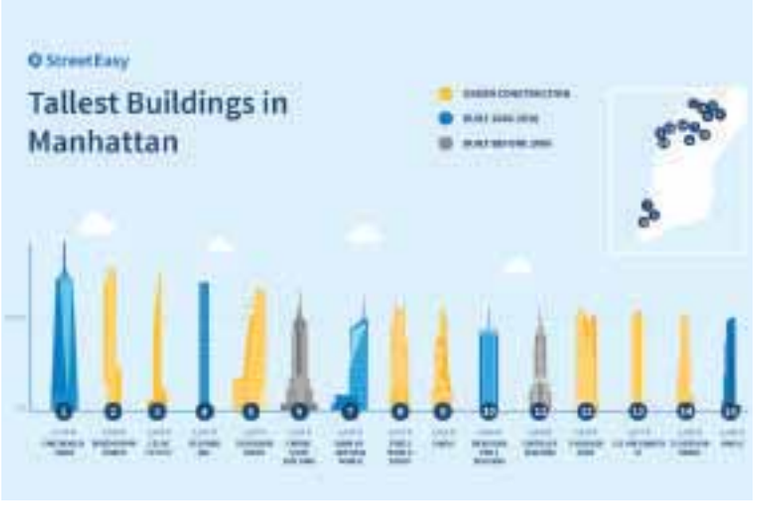
The shape of the Manhattan skyline will soon look different as eight buildings currently under construction will eventually rank among the 15 tallest in the city.

Released on Skyscraper Appreciation Day, a new report from real estate site StreetEasy analyzed the sizes of buildings under construction in New York City and found that, while One World Trade Center will remain the tallest in the city, some of Manhattan's other skyscrapers will be moving further down the list in the coming years.

By looking at commercial and residential high-rises and those being built, StreetEasy compiled a list of the city's 15 tallest towers and planned buildings and found that five were completed in the last 10 years and eight were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019. Of those listed, only the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building were constructed before 2006.

Under construction

Of those under construction, the Nordstrom Tower at 217 W. 57th St. will be the tallest at 1,550 feet, second only to One World Trade Center when it comes to height, StreetEasy reported. Expected to be completed in 2019 and anchored by department store brand Nordstrom, the residential and commercial tower will offer $4.4 billion in condos at its top and a total of 130 floors, making it the tallest residential tower in the U.S.



Residences

The list contains several properties offering residences to those looking to live up high.

The tall and slim 111 West 57th St. will offer 82 floors of residences, and 53 West 53rd St., known as 53W53, will also rise 82 floors and will feature three floors of MoMA gallery space, according to StreetEasy. Both are expected to be completed in 2018.

Hudson Yards a hotbed of height

Manhattan's Hudson Yards development will be a hotbed of skyscrapers once it is completed, with three of the city's tallest 15 buildings calling the area home.

- Eventually becoming the city's fifth-tallest building when it is completed in 2019, 30 Hudson Yards will offer an observation deck and "thrill device" — a glass walkway — and will stand 1,287 feet, StreetEasy stated.
- Also in the neighborhood, 35 Hudson Yards, due in 2018, and 3 Hudson Blvd., slated for 2019, will each stand more than 1,000 feet when they are completed.

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Apple store coming to new WTC Oculus shopping center

Besides Apple, some of the other brands slated to have locations at the new mall included Hugo Boss, Lacoste, Disney and Bose.

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A new shopping mall opening next week around the Oculus transportation hub at the World Trade Center will offer a variety of retail and dining locations as well as Manhattan's newest Apple store.

Next Tuesday, the Westfield World Trade Center will open in Lower Manhattan, encompassing 365,000 square feet of retail space integrated around the Oculus transit center, Westfield stated. The area is home to 60,000 residents and sees approximately 300,000 daily commuters who will now pass by a new Apple store, Eataly's latest marketplace and retail clothing spots like Banana Republic and Kate Spade.

The new $3.9 billion World Trade Center transportation hub Oculus pavilion HANNAH MATTIX/

Apple's permit showed that the store will span two floors and may include up to 10,000 square feet on each floor, a report from website 9to5Mac stated.

"Westfield is profoundly proud to be a part of this project and to introduce new experiences and energy to Lower Manhattan," stated William Hecht, Westfield's chief operating officer in the U.S. "We are incredibly excited to open our doors to our neighbors, New York and tristate area families, visitors and all of our partners on Aug. 16."

Besides Apple, some of the other brands slated to have locations at the new mall included Hugo Boss, Lacoste, Disney and Bose, Westfield added. London steakhouse Hawksmoor is scheduled to open in the future at the center.

Westfield has interests in 34 shopping centers in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

NYC home vacancy rate hits July record, benefits renters

A new report shows that Manhattan renters are benefitting from the highest July vacancy rate on record, leading to decreased rents across the board when compared to June and an increased level of landlord concessions.

The new analysis, from real estate brokerage Citi Habitats, found that Manhattan's July vacancy rate was 1.92 percent, the highest vacancy rate for that month since 2002, when the company started tracking the rental market, and greater than July 2015's rate of 1.42 percent. The average July rent was $3,508, less than June's average of $3,526.

Also in July, prices declined for all apartment categories, including a 1 percent decrease for studios and two-bedrooms, and a 3 percent drop for one-bedrooms, Citi Habitats reported. Three-bedroom units' rents declined by a negligible amount.

A for rent sign sits in a window. GETTY IMAGES

"The fact we are trending toward a 2 percent vacancy rate despite the busy summer season shows we are in a very price-sensitive market," stated Gary Malin, president of Citi Habitats. "The use of concessions and slight rent adjustments by owners has failed to significantly move the needle."

Regarding concessions in July, 19 percent of rental transactions brokered by Citi Habitats offered a free month's rent or payment of the broker fee to attract tenants, up from 16 percent of transactions offering similar incentives in June, the brokerage reported. Only 8 percent of leases offered similar deals in July 2015.

"Today's renters are increasingly open to living in the outer boroughs or New Jersey," Malin said. "In order to reverse this trend, Manhattan landlords will either have to become more liberal with their incentives — or adjust their pricing to reflect the changing conditions."

1.92%
MANHATTAN VACANCY RATE

2.83%
UPPER WEST SIDE VACANCY RATE

In July, the most expensive neighborhood for renters was SoHo/Tribeca, with a median rent of $6,310, while Washington Heights' rents were the lowest, with a median figure of $2,200, according to Citi Habitats. The Upper West Side had the highest vacancy rate, with 2.83 percent of rental units available in the neighborhood. JASON NUCKOLLS

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

The economy is not looking bullish. GETTY IMAGES

Comptroller: NYC economy showing signs of slowdown

As local economic indicators grind to some of their lowest points in years, New York City's economy is showing signs of a potential slowdown.

The city added 13,400 private-sector jobs during the second quarter of 2016, the second smallest increase in six years, while the local economy grew at 1.7 percent, the slowest rate in two years, according to a new quarterly report from New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer.

"For the first time in a number of years, several important economic indicators are pointing toward weaker growth," Stringer stated. "While the residential real estate market remains strong and the wage gap has narrowed, this report confirms that our recovery is no longer gaining steam."

The average hourly earnings of private workers in the city fell .1 percent to $33.48 in 2016's second quarter, the first year-over-year decline in nearly seven years, according to the comptroller. On the other hand, the national hourly earnings average grew by 2.8 percent, the biggest gain in seven years.

"Our city's economy is still growing — but in 2016, we've gone from a sprint to a jog," Stringer added.

In the second quarter, New York City unemployment fell to 5.2 percent from 5.4 percent during the previous quarter, while the national unemployment rate remained at unchanged at 4.9 percent, Stringer reported. The decline in unemployment, though, was due to a contraction of 34,200 in the city's labor force, the biggest quarterly decline on record, which may indicate that New York's discouraged job seekers are leaving the labor market. JASON NUCKOLLS

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Cops end ascent of NYC 'human fly' climber 21 stories up Trump Tower

Virginia man used large suction cups.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA and KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
cristabelle.tumola@metro.us

The climber is hemmed in with no where to go. TWITTER/@ NYPDNIEVES

A daredevil climber scaled more than a dozen floors of the glass-faced Trump Tower on 56th Street, bringing Midtown Manhattan to a standstill for more than two hours before police hauled him in through an opened window on the 21st floor.

The climber, who according to the New York Daily News, is Steve Rogata from Virginia, scaled the East 56th Street tower with the help of what appeared to be five large "suction cups," according to media reports.

A witness said he started in the fifth floor sub-garden, which is accessible to the public, ABC7 New York reported.

Emergency workers reportedly cut a hole in grates on the building and took out several windows in an effort to intervene. They also lowered window washer scaffolding to an attempt to cut the climber off and set up airbags in case he fell.

Police did not initially want to grab the man for safety reasons, but eventually, when they had created a larger opening, were able to grab him and pull him to safety after he reached the 21st floor at about 6:30 p.m. — around two hours after police arrived, according to ABC7.

The man, who was carrying a backpack with papers that have Trump's name on them, seemed to be smiling and talking to authorities as he continued to clean off the glass and apply a suction cup as he climbed, ABC7 reported.

"This is clearly a stunt guy," an official told ABC. "The guy doesn't appear to be here to do anything evil."

Police at the scene did not believe he had any weapons in his backpack due to his demeanor.

The emergency response officers grab the climber. GETTY IMAGES

Radiation and explosive detectors did not pick up any signals.

"This man performed a ridiculous and dangerous stunt," Michael Cohen, an executive vice president in the Trump organization, said in a statement, ABC reported. "There's damage to the building and he caused the unnecessary deployment of New York's Finest to protect his safety and the safety of everyone in the building.

"He's caused the shutdown of traffic on Fifth Avenue. I'm 100 percent certain the NYPD had better things to do. If Mr. Trump were here he'd be thanking law enforcement for the job they're doing."

Trump was 500 miles away Wednesday afternoon at a rally in Virginia, ABC reported.

A police source told ABC that the pamphlets indicated that the climber's motivation was self-promotion.

A video posted to YouTube on Tuesday afternoon shows a man who looks like Wednesday's climber explaining the reason for his stunt. Police told ABC there is "no reason to believe it's not him," but the identity of the man in the video has not been confirmed.

The climber was not keen to be taken inside. GETTY IMAGES

BODY FOUND

Police: Homeless man found dead in Central Park near Seventh Avenue

Police are investigating the death of a homeless man after his body was discovered inside Central Park Tuesday night.

Around 11 p.m., police responded to a 911 call of an unconscious, unresponsive man inside the park near the corner of Central Park South and Seventh Avenue, authorities said. They found the man, who appeared to be in his 30s, with no obvious signs of trauma.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police said that the man appeared to be homeless, the New York Daily News reported. His name has not been released.

The medical examiner was determining the cause of death, and the investigation remained ongoing, according to authorities.

JASON NUCKOLLS

Central Park GOOGLE MAPS

BRIEF

NY judge tosses billionaire Bacon's defamation case v Canada's Nygard

A New York state judge on Wednesday threw out billionaire hedge fund manager Louis Bacon's $100 million defamation lawsuit against Canadian fashion designer Peter Nygard, saying the case tied to their long-running feud over neighboring properties in the Bahamas belongs there.

Bacon, the founder of Moore Capital Management LP in New York, had accused Nygard in the lawsuit of engineering a "malicious" smear campaign against him including street rallies, bogus YouTube videos, and attempts to falsely link him to arson, bribery, drug smuggling, the Ku Klux Klan and murder.

That prompted Nygard, the chairman of Winnipeg-based Nygard International, to file a $50 million countersuit accusing Bacon of pursuing a "vendetta" against him.

Each man has denied the other's claims. Wednesday's decision may spell an end to the New York state court litigation.

Supreme Court Justice Cynthia Kern in Manhattan wrote that while Bacon is a New York resident, the Bahamas is a "more appropriate forum" for his case.

She said this was because most of the actions that Bacon accused Nygard of undertaking to further his alleged smear campaign occurred in the Bahamas, and most of the potential witnesses live there.

Bacon has opposed Nygard's effort to expand his property in the Bahamas' gated Lyford Cay community, following a 2009 fire.

Some environmental groups and residents have said an expansion may damage the surrounding ecosystem and beaches. REUTERS

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Approaching tollbooths warning road signs New York. GETTY IMAGES

Judge: New York's use of tolls to maintain canals unconstitutional

The plaintiffs in the case are seeking unspecified damages.

A federal judge on Wednesday said the New York State Thruway Authority's practice of diverting toll revenue it collects from commercial truckers to maintain upstate canals is unconstitutional.

Chief Judge Colleen McMahon of the federal court in Manhattan agreed with the American Trucking Associations trade group that the authority unlawfully burdens interstate commerce by contributing more than $61 million annually, or roughly 10 percent of toll revenue, to maintain the canals.

McMahon called the canals a "jewel in the crown" for New York, which benefits from tourism revenue they generate, but said they offered no benefit to truckers.

She said this made the state's use of toll revenue from truckers to maintain the canals a violation of the so-called Dormant Commerce Clause.

"The State of New York cannot insulate the canal system from the vagaries of the political process and taxpayer preferences by imposing the cost of its upkeep on those who drive the New York Thruway in interstate commerce," McMahon wrote.

"To the extent that they are used to maintain and operate the canal system, the thruway tolls are unconstitutionally excessive," she added.

Neither the Thruway Authority nor the office of New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, which defended its use of tolls, immediately responded to requests for comment.

"Revenue from tolls must be spent maintaining the roads they're collected on," Chris Spear, chief executive of American Trucking Associations, said in a statement.

"We hope today's ruling will not only end this practice in New York, but dissuade other states from financing their budget shortfalls on the backs of our industry," he added.

The tolls in question are charged on the Governor Thomas E. Dewey Thruway system, which stretches about 570 miles.

Truckers said the excess tolls reduced their revenue and raised consumer prices to benefiting a canal system, including the Erie Canal, that was once crucial for transporting goods but is now obsolete, and mainly a tourist attraction.

McMahon had dismissed the lawsuit on other grounds in 2014. The federal appeals court in Manhattan revived the case last August. REUTERS

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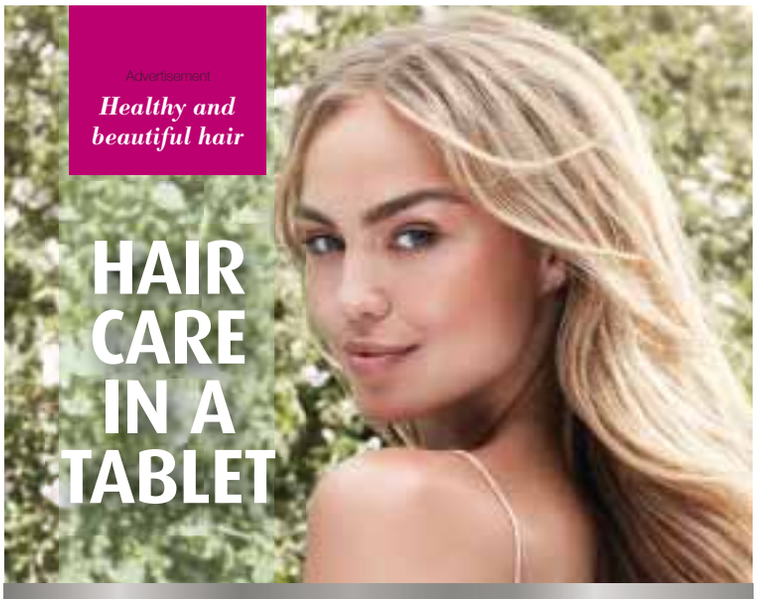

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A protester stands with his hands up as officers move toward him near a CVS pharmacy near West North Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue during a protest for Freddie Gray in Baltimore on Monday April 27, 2015. GETTY IMAGES

Baltimore pledges police reforms after DOJ report

The Justice Department's civil rights division said Baltimore and federal officials have agreed on a legal framework for police department changes overseen by an independent monitor.

Baltimore officials on Wednesday pledged to carry out sweeping police department reforms after a scathing Justice Department report found that officers in the majority-black city routinely violated the civil rights of black residents.

The report on the 2,600-officer department released on Tuesday found that black residents were regularly subjected to stops as pedestrians and motorists, arrests, strip searches and excessive force in violation of constitutional rights and federal anti-discrimination laws.

The 163-page report was prompted by the April 2015 death of a black man, Freddie Gray, from a neck injury suffered in police custody.

Gray's death was one of a series of incidents in various cities in the past two years that have raised questions about racial discrimination in law enforcement.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, who is black, told a city hall news conference that Baltimore would implement a reform plan in the next few months.

"It's not going to be easy to reform the department, and it's not going to be quick," Rawlings-Blake said.

Rawlings-Blake said the police department had already revised 26 procedures, including changes in policies, training, a body-camera program and use-of-force guidelines.

Vanita Gupta, the head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, said she expected quick progress toward a final agreement with the city on police reforms. Rawlings-Blake said Baltimore expected to spend between $5 million and $10 million a year to implement the agreement.

The framework agreement called for improved training of officers and data collection to ensure they are adhering to legal and constitutional standards. It also highlighted technology to allow better monitoring of officers, and strategies to rebuild relationships with city residents.

The report found that police stopped black residents three times as often as white residents. Sixty-three percent of Baltimore residents are black, but the report found blacks faced 86 percent of charges by police. Black motorists accounted for 82 percent of traffic stops even though they make up only 60 percent of drivers.

In one of numerous incidents cited in the report, police stopped a female motorist merely for a missing headlight. Officers performed a strip search, including a body-cavity probe, and no evidence of wrongdoing was found.

The report said police had made more than 300,000 recorded pedestrian stops from January 2010 to May last year in the city of about 621,000 people, mostly in black neighborhoods. It said seven black men were stopped more than 30 times apiece during that period.

Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, who is white, said the department already has fired six officers this year as part of reform efforts. REUTERS

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'Grim Sleeper' killer sentenced to death for Los Angeles murders

Lonnie David Franklin Jr., dubbed the "Grim Sleeper" GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy handed down the death sentence recommended in June for Lonnie David Franklin Jr., 63, by a jury. A month earlier, the panel had convicted him on 10 counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder.

A former sanitation worker who became known as the "Grim Sleeper" was sentenced to death on Wednesday for murdering nine women and a teenage girl as he preyed on prostitutes and drug addicts in a Los Angeles crime spree dating back 30 years.

"I can't think of anyone in all my years that has committed the kind of monstrous and the number of monstrous crimes that you have," Kennedy told the serial killer.

David Franklin Jr., who is suspected in other unsolved slayings, showed no emotion as the sentence was imposed and did not formally address the court.

Franklin was found guilty of shooting seven women to death from August 1985 to September 1988, then strangling a 15-year-old girl, and strangling or shooting two other women in a second round of killings between March 2002 and January 2007.

The killer was dubbed the "Grim Sleeper" because he seemed to have taken a 13-year break between the two spates of murders.

Franklin also was found guilty of attacking an 11th victim, who survived being shot, raped, pushed out of a car and left for dead in 1988. She testified against him at trial.

Prosecutors said Franklin stalked the streets of South Los Angeles, preying on prostitutes and drug addicts in a crime spree beginning at the height of a crack cocaine epidemic in the area. His victims' nude or partially clothed bodies were found dumped in alleys and large trash bins.

Franklin did not testify at his trial. His attorneys had sought to raise doubts about DNA evidence and suggested another "mystery man" was behind the killings.

Authorities said after Franklin's 2011 indictment that they had evidence tying him to several more unsolved slayings, some of which occurred during the presumed lapse in killings. Prosecutors in the penalty phase of the trial were permitted to present testimony about four such cases.

During the sentencing hearing Franklin became agitated when a victim's relative said she had been friendly with him.

"I've never seen you. I've never seen your face. That's a bold-face lie," he said, before being told to calm down by a sheriff's deputy. REUTERS

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Filing: Ex-aide says Christie 'lied' about New Jersey's 'Bridgegate'

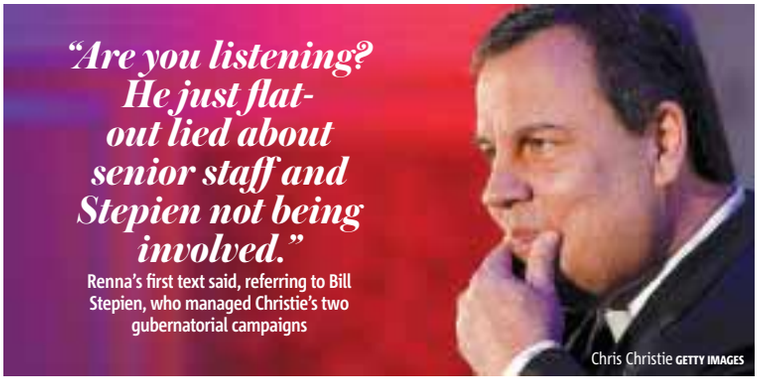
The details were revealed in a document filed in New Jersey federal court by Bill Baroni, former deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who is one of two former Christie allies facing trial next month on Bridgegate-related criminal charges.

A former aide to Chris Christie said in a text message that the New Jersey governor "flat out lied" when he said senior staff members were not involved in the "Bridgegate" scandal in 2013, according to a court filing on Wednesday.

Speculation has persisted for years about whether Christie or members of his staff were aware of an alleged plot to close two New York City-bound lanes at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee as retribution against Mayor Mark Sokolich, a Democrat who had refused to back the Republican governor's re-election campaign.

Christie addressed the controversy at a Dec. 13, 2013, news conference, a day after the state legislature issued several subpoenas in its investigation of the lane closures.

"I've made it very clear to everybody on my senior staff that if anyone had any knowledge about this that they needed to come forward to me and tell me about it, and they've all assured me that they don't," Christie said at the time.


"Are you listening? He just flat-out lied about senior staff and Stepien not being involved."
Renna's first text said, referring to Bill Stepien, who managed Christie's two gubernatorial campaigns
Chris Christie GETTY IMAGES

Christina Renna, former director of Christie's intergovernmental affairs office, immediately sent a text message to Peter Sheridan, a member of Christie's re-election campaign, according to the filing.

"Are you listening? He just flat-out lied about senior staff and Stepien not being involved," her first text said, referring to Bill Stepien, who managed Christie's two gubernatorial campaigns.

In a subsequent text, Renna said "it could be bad" if emails were later uncovered through a subpoena or court discovery.

Christie would apologize weeks later at another news conference, when he said he was firing his deputy chief of staff, Bridget Kelly, and that he had been "lied to" when he told reporters no one on his staff was involved.

He also cut ties with Stepien, saying at the news conference that he had lost confidence in Stepien's judgment. Stepien has not been charged in the case.

"The governor's statements have been clear," a Christie spokesman, Brian Murray, said on Wednesday. "Nothing contained in this text message changes that in any way."

A lawyer for Renna, now vice president of the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey, said she would not address the issue until she testifies at the upcoming criminal trial for Baroni and Kelly.

Kevin Marino, a lawyer for Stepien, called the suggestion he might have been involved in Bridgegate "categorically false and irresponsible."

REUTERS

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Anti-Trump Republicans struggle with how to best reject nominee

High-profile Republicans and rank-and-file voters on Wednesday struggled with how to best reject Donald Trump's divisive candidacy, as the nominee dealt with fallout from his remark that gun rights activists could stop Hillary Clinton from nominating liberal Supreme Court justices.

MSNBC host Joe Scarborough, a former Republican congressman from Florida, wrote an opinion piece in the Washington Post saying the party was in "uncharted waters" and called for leaders to start looking for ways to remove Trump from the ticket.

A new Reuters/Ipsos poll taken Aug. 5-8 showed that nearly one-fifth of 396 registered Republicans want Trump to drop out of the race for the White House and another 10 percent "don't know" whether the Republican nominee should or not.

Clinton's campaign moved to bring disenchanted Republicans into the fold by announcing an official intraparty outreach effort on behalf of the Democratic nominee.

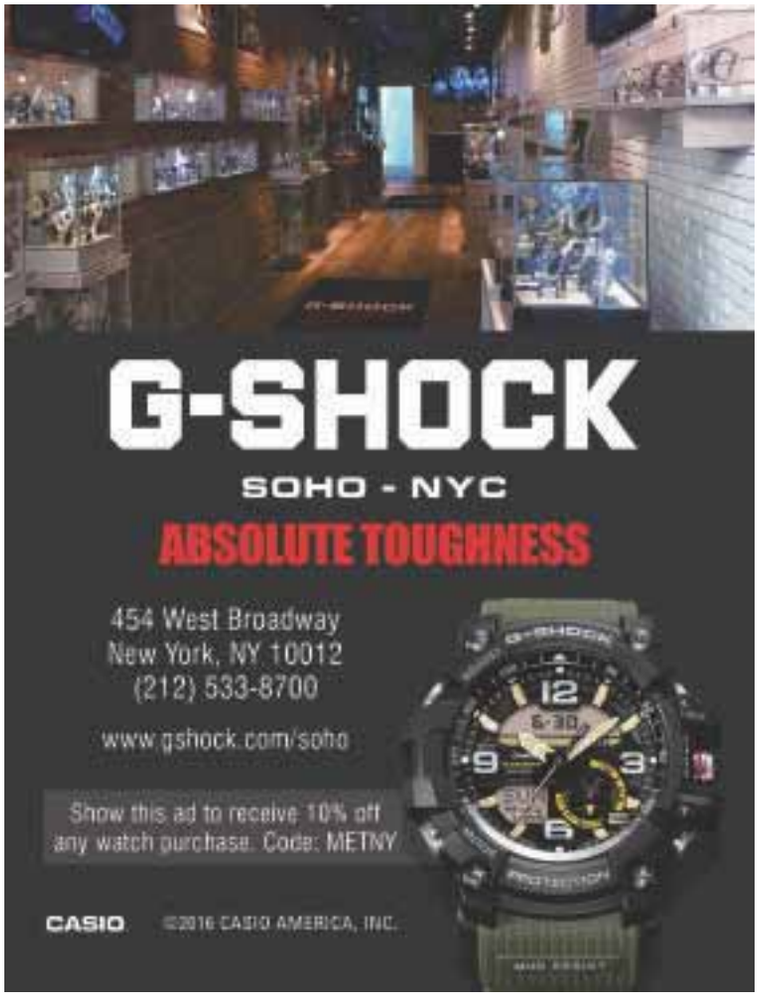
But strategists cautioned that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to remove Trump from the Republican ticket.

"It's wishful thinking to believe the Republicans are going to replace its nominee after the convention. People are grasping at straws," Ron Bonjean, a Republican strategist unaffiliated with Trump, told Reuters.

The best moves for Trump's detractors may be withholding their endorsements, refusing to raise money for his campaign, throwing their weight behind Clinton or holding out hope that he voluntarily quits.

Trump GETTY IMAGES

Clinton's campaign now has a website for Republicans and political independents to sign up to pledge their support. It lists 50 prominent Republicans and independents who have endorsed her so far, including Hewlett Packard Enterprise chief executive officer Meg Whitman and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. REUTERS



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Britain's Jack Laugher and Chris Mears celebrate their victory at the men's synchronized 3-meter springboard.

New Zealand's Rieko Ioane tackles Fiji's Jerry Tuwai in the men's rugby sevens quarter-final match between Fiji and New Zealand.

Lindsay Whalen takes shot in front of Serbia's Milica Dabovic.

Silver medalist Varlam Liparteliani of Georgia stands on the podium during the medal ceremony for the men's -90kg judo.

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FCC votes to keep most media ownership rules

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday voted to retain nearly all rules limiting cross-ownership of newspapers, radio and TV stations in the same market, a source familiar with the vote said.

The decision is a blow to struggling newspaper companies that have long pushed for the FCC to relax the restrictions. A spokesman for FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler did not immediately comment.

In June, Wheeler proposed retaining the existing rules barring companies in most instances from owning a newspaper and a broadcast TV or radio station in the same market, as well as other individual market limits on radio and TV stations with "slight modification," according to the summary of the proposal.

The Newspaper Association of America said in a statement in June it was "deeply disappointed" in Wheeler's proposal, saying it was "stunned that any policymaker in the internet era would propose to keep a 1970s-era law that prevents broadcast stations and newspapers from being owned by the same company."

The group said Wheeler's proposal kept in place a "40-year-old rule that is more obsolete than the eight-track tape or the mainframe computer ... The result will be less resources for the local news on which our democracy depends."

Congress had ordered the commission in 1996 to review cross-ownership rules every four years but the FCC's most recent review, before Wednesday, was completed in 2006.

The seal for the Federal Communications Commission GETTY IMAGES

The agency in 1975 banned cross-ownership of a newspaper and broadcast station in the same market unless it granted a waiver, but allowed existing ownership structures to remain in place.

Wheeler proposed to modestly relax the rule by providing an exception for failed or failing newspapers or stations.

Republican FCC commissioners have urged the agency to scrap the cross-ownership limits.

The Pew Research Center said in a report in June that U.S. newspaper weekday circulation fell 7 percent and Sunday circulation fell 4 percent in 2015 — the greatest declines since 2010.

Advertising revenue at U.S. newspapers fell nearly 8 percent in 2015 — the steepest decline since 2009. The United States has shed more than 120 newspapers since 2004, Pew said.

Wheeler's proposal also leaves in place rules barring mergers among any of the top four national television broadcast networks: ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox. REUTERS

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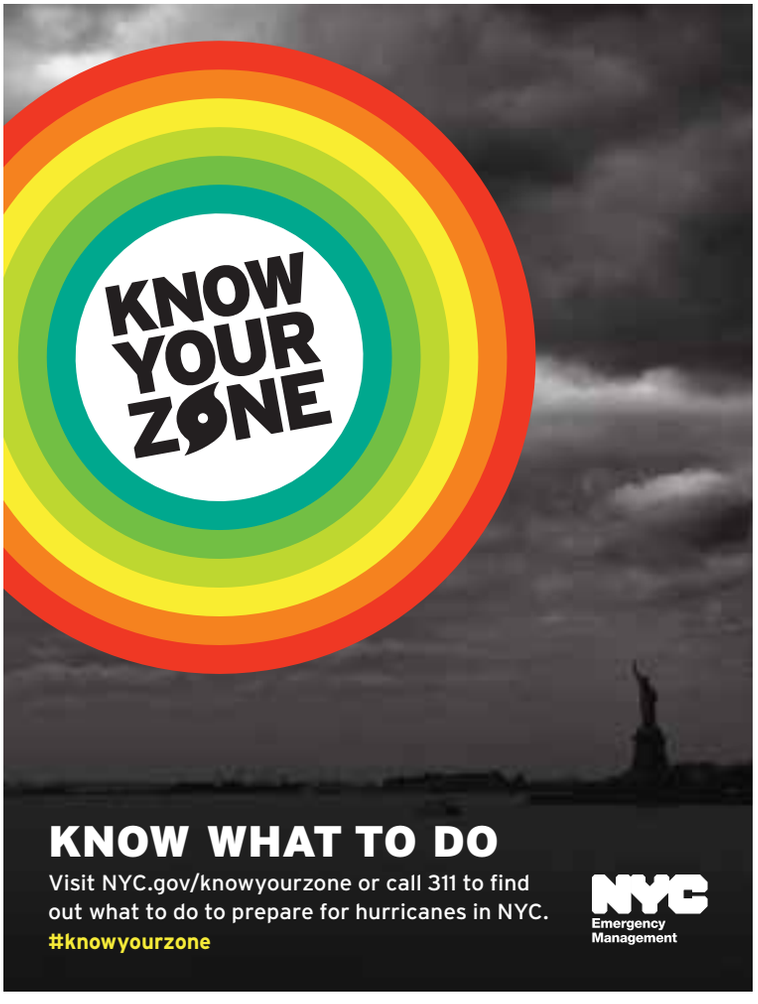

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Seth Rogen voices a talking hot dog who's crazy about a talking hot dog bun (voice of Kristen Wiig) in "Sausage Party." SONY

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THE FUN STARTS HERE

Our 'meat-cute' with Seth Rogen

The actor talks about making an R-rated movie about a talking hot dog.

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Seth Rogen makes cartoons blue with "Sausage Party." It's an idea he had a decade ago: Make a traditional-looking animated film, then cover it in trash-mouthed potty humor. And now we have this R-rated toon, in which the star, 34, who also co-wrote, voices a talking hot dog living in a supermarket.
He and his cohorts — including his love interest, a bun voiced by Kristen Wiig, as well as Jonah Hill and Michael Cera as sausages — realize the grim news of what happens after they leave the store. Along the way they make a lot of double entendres about meat.

What were some influences for this? Any particular animated movies or TV shows you were thinking of?
Well, I'm a huge fan of "South Park," which was a big influence on us. We're also huge fans of the Pixar movies. "Toy Story," "A Bug's Life," "Finding Nemo" — all of them. Those were two of our largest benchmarks when it came to animation, and they're not very similar. But I think that was the line we were trying to walk.

Yes, that combination of the subversive and the innocent.
And since there haven't been many adult animated movies we thought one thing that might make it more digestible — no pun intended — was to present it like how you're used to seeing an animated movie and give it the texture and skin of a Pixar movie, basically. We started like that and then peeled back the layers of weirdness, taking the viewer down the rabbit hole.

There are so many quick little jokes in the animation, like the hot dog package listing 16,000 calories.
There are so many. I've seen the movie probably 75 to 100 times and every time I notice new things the animators did. As funny a script as I hope we wrote, they made it a thousand times funnier.

Your character, Frank, somehow even seems to have your expressions.
Yeah, the animators filmed every actor during the recording sessions and really tried to animate their expressions as they were doing it. The animators were like, "Oh, wherever possible we animated it exactly how the actors performed it … with their face." The hot dog me was a better actor than the real me!

What was the process of going from an idea to the screen like?
It was a really slow process. It took years just to go from talking about it to writing the screenplay. An idea this strange takes a long time to wrap your head around. It was a similar writing process to "This Is the End," actually. It was mostly while we were filming the movie "50/50" in 2009 or 2010 that we wrote the first draft. And then it was two years after that we actually sold it. All that and the animation process, it was glacial.

Which food in the movie would you most want to eat?
Well, the meanest character in the movie is the douche, but he's not a food. But maybe I'd eat him because of that.

That's so benevolent of you! So how did it feel doing voiceover work again?
It's really fun, because it's all about you. It's just a person and a microphone. It really frees you of the bulls— that goes around acting sometimes.

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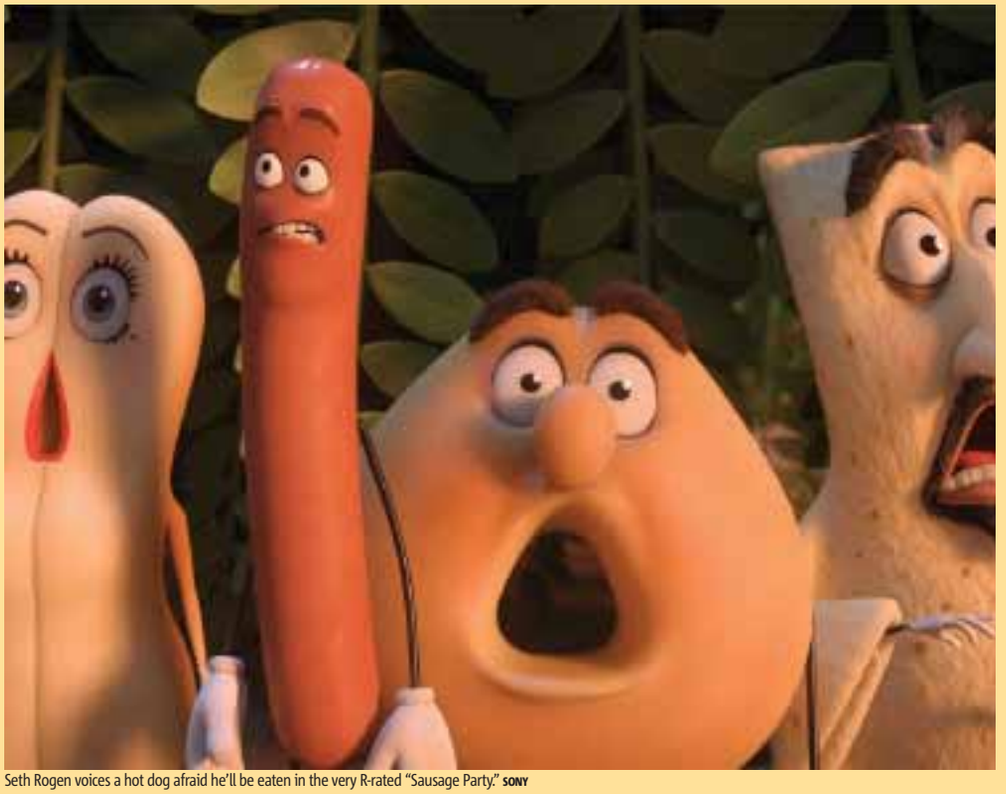

Seth Rogen voices a hot dog afraid he'll be eaten in the very R-rated "Sausage Party." SONY

"Sausage Party"

Director: Greg Tiernan, Conrad Vernon
Voices of: Seth Rogen, Kristen Wiig
Rating: R

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"Sausage Party" is an anarchic bit of summer-movie fun. The premise is simple enough: Frank (Seth Rogen, his affable bro presence felt even in animated form) is a hot dog living an ignorantly cheerful life in a grocery store with all his other food friends. Before too long, Frank learns what really happens when food leaves the store. Chaos ensues as fruits, vegetables, meat and packaged goods fight for their lives and spew endless profanities.

The world of the supermarket is a twisted, hyperdetailed wonderland, every shot jam-packed with bright colors, sexual signifiers and visual puns. As expected, the film flouts conventions of political correctness and paints ethnic stereotypes of the different foods with a broad brush. The treatment of the Israel-Palestine conflict as an ultimately homoerotic push-and-pull between two bread products truly must be seen to be believed.

While the movie doesn't run too long, there are moments when the shtick starts to wear thin. The "hot dog equals penis, bun equals vagina" jokes that guide much of the film are funny, but the audience may eventually start rolling their eyes. The lead-up to the climactic all-out food orgy spectacular can feel like eating one too many hot dogs: fun, but a bit much.

There hasn't been much in the way of adult cartoons in recent years, and "Sausage Party"'s premise, with its demented take on "Toy Story," is so simple yet ridiculous it's hard to believe no one's come up with it before. The film even touches on existentialism (what's really out there?) and gets into meta "whoa, dude, we're in a cartoon" moments. "Sausage Party" may work better as a short film or a TV episode (it owes an obvious debt to "Aqua Teen Hunger Force"), but it packs a number of laughs, from shocked yelps to knowing chuckles, into its 89 minutes. As parties go, it's sillier and tastier than most. ABBEY BENDER

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The big, green, sometimes invisible beastie in "Pete's Dragon" is totes adorbs. DISNEY

"Pete's Dragon"

Director: David Lowery
Stars: Oakes Fegley, Bryce Dallas Howard
Rating: PG

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The new "Pete's Dragon" could be another pox on the multiplexes; instead it's closer to the cure. In an era of badly told stories writ as huge and expensive as possible, it plays small and precise. A thankfully very loose remake of a Disney runt from 1977, it turns an overlong torture machine into a modest, cuddly and almost surreally short lark that just so happens to feature a gorgeously designed CGI monster. We almost don't deserve a movie this nice — the nicest, surely, since David Lynch's actually G-rated "The Straight Story," with the added benefit of a winged behemoth cuter than a thousand cat videos.

That doesn't mean it doesn't have claws. It even begins with death. Young Pete (Oakes Fegley) only meets his dragon friend after surviving a car accident that claims his parents. Pete calls him Elliott, and they spend years in the wilds of the Pacific Northwest. Naturally, the plot engineers to separate them. Pete is found by a peerlessly sweet woman (Bryce Dallas Howard), while a local hothead (Karl Urban) plots to catch the "Millhaven Dragon" — a plan he's stupid enough to think is smart.

Director David Lowery comes from indies (like "Ain't Them Bodies Saints"), but he doesn't bite off more than he can chew. The plot is simple, mostly taking place over two days. Characters are simple, too. (Robert Redford, as Dallas' father, basically just oozes laidback Robert Redford-ness.) But it's quietly complex: Elliot is both YouTube-ably adorable and also, you know, a dragon, with a short temper and the ability to breathe fire.

It's still a nice movie. But like most good nice movies, it knows when to show its dark side. It also knows not to go too far. It's a retro film but not mere cheap nostalgia. Mostly it longs for a time when children's films made sense, had stories that weren't impossible to follow, mixed humor and heartbreak and generally weren't cynical. That it's a movie born out of cynicism — made because a giant conglomerate wanted to rake in money from a famous title — is, actually, perfect. It shows that sometimes second chances aren't the opportunity to make the same mistakes again. Isn't that nice? MATT PRIGGE

"Hell or High Water"

Director: David Mackenzie
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Chris Pine
Rating: R

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Jeff Bridges, center, plays a Texas Ranger out to bust bank robbers in "Hell or High Water." CBS FILMS

"Hell or High Water" is the rare crime movie with room for both commentary on the housing crisis and "That's what she said" jokes. It's a smoothie of ingredients that shouldn't go together, but do. It's not a comedy, but it is funnier than most yuk-fests. It's a stark genre grinder but rarely unpleasant and not above getting caught up in some law-breakin' fun. It harks back to the good ol' b-movie days but without seeming like a slavish and soulless pastiche. And it's as personable and precise as the Texas Ranger played by Jeff Bridges, who's as sharp with a one-liner as he is with a sniper rifle.

The setup is classic cops-and-robbers, but not one to take sides. Even before we learn their real motives, it's a gas riding along with Toby and Tanner (Chris Pine and Ben Foster), ne'er-do-well brothers — one brooding, the other anarchic — who light out to knock over a series of banks. On their trail is Bridges' Marcus, a grizzled and exacting lawman who is none too chipper about his looming retirement.

"Hell or High Water" is pitiless and mean — all dirt roads and endless arid horizons, ghost towns and grimy motel rooms. That doesn't mean the movie can't crack wise. Jokes come early and often, whether people are just killing time or each other. Then there's Tanner. Foster has played untold psychotic intensos (including Lance Armstrong), but Tanner's the first one who loves to wreak havoc. He knows that life is short, and he'd rather live it doing whatever he wants. In his case, that means embracing his worst instincts, not being tamed by society or even basic compassion. He's a delightful guy, provided you ignore his body count.

"Hell or High Water" doesn't share his sociopathic glee, but it does revel in gallows humor. It doesn't shy away from death or, perhaps worse, a living death, with characters who survive knowing life will be unbearable. It's something else, this movie — a dirty entertainment that doesn't let an acute awareness of the fates get in the way of having a laugh. **MP**

"Florence Foster Jenkins"

Director: Stephen Frears
Stars: Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant
Rating: PG-13

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Hugh Grant helps Meryl Streep torture eardrums in "Florence Foster Jenkins." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The title of one Florence Foster Jenkins compilation album is "The Glory (????) of the Human Voice." That's not very nice. Perhaps deservedly so. One of the worst singers to ever foolishly commit her voice to record, she was a society lady who, in the 1940s, had enough money to convince herself, and a bevy of yes-men and deaf dowagers, that she didn't sing with the accuracy of a drunk, sweaty octopus trying to defuse a bomb.

The movie made of her life, starring no less than Meryl Streep, is much nicer. It walks a fine line between deep mockery and genuine empathy. It knows that Jenkins' pitchless, rhythmless warble produced laughter the way bullets produce blood. But it also knows that doing nothing but snickering at her is wrong. So it plays it both ways, inviting you to laugh at her sprawling canyon of talent while understanding that an epic lack of self-awareness is the only thing keeping her from being depressingly tragic.

The movie trails Streep's Jenkins as she goes from a mere patron of the arts to a wholly undeserving artist herself. Her accomplices include a younger husband, the failed actor St. Clair Bayfield (Hugh Grant), who's spent 25 years clearly using her to fend off poverty. And there's her accompanist, Cosme McMoon (Simon Helberg), a pianist with a gruesome case of nervous giggling. He's afraid to tarnish his reputation, but not enough to turn down paychecks as big as his client's musical talents were small.

Bayfield and McMoon are predators feasting on an upper-class twit, but they're sympathetic, too. That's not a contradiction—the film understands people who struggle to contain big, rickety worlds held together by scotch tape and bubblegum (and lots of money). And while Streep is aces, it's Grant who owns the movie. As Bayfield, he's in enjoyably smirking jerk mode, but you can see strains of panic in his every dastardly move, hear it in every razor-sharp one-liner. If it plays as lampoon of a triumph-of-the-human-spirit picture, it's also a sad lament for life's losers, who are probably closer to us than most of the winners. **MP**

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The next generation

The new alt R&B superstars you need to know.

NICOLE HUNTER
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Like the gang of neo soul singers who ruled the early aughts, alt R&B has sprung up as a countercultural form of soul music, sung by artists who are wary of labels. FKA Twigs has railed against the alternative R&B label about as vehemently as D'Angelo distanced himself from the category back in the day, likely because both terms have been used as catchalls to describe black creatives who sing indie music. But beyond the debate about what to call it, alternative R&B has unquestionably produced some of the most exciting music of the decade, from The Odd Future spin-offs (Grammy-winning Frank Ocean and Grammy-nominated the Internet) to the Saint Heron crew (a slew of Solange Knowles-endorsed singers, including Kelela and Sampha). Here, a roundup of the emerging names set to further redefine alt R&B this year.

Abra

The New York-born, London-raised, Atlanta-affiliated singer became famous while popping bubblegum, whipping her ponytail and rolling around in a bed full of stuffed animals in the video for her club hit, "Roses." And while she's most closely associated with the ATL rap scene after being signed to the male-dominated Awful Records, her music brings to mind a different scene and era altogether: the raw, lo-fi house music of New York during the days of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Vogue has already christened her a fashion-industry favorite. Expect to hear her newly released EP, "Princess," on a New York Fashion Week catwalk or two come September.

Lion Babe

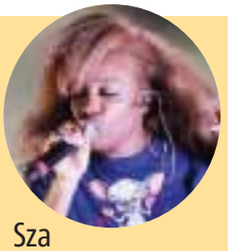
Made up of vocalist Jillian Hervey (daughter of actress Vanessa Williams) and producer partner Lucas Goodman, Lion Babe are hardly new. But five years into their existence as a band — and three years after releasing their debut hit "Treat Me Like Fire" — they're just beginning to have a global impact as they make the summer music festival rounds promoting their freshman album, "Begin." Their mix of '80s soul and funk, which has been touched by the likes of Pharrell Williams and Childish Gambino, resonates strongest when played live, and Hervey, a former dancer, truly understands the power of performance.

Chloe x Halle

Chances are you saw them before you knew them: The Atlanta teenage sisters had a guest starring appearance in Beyonce's "Lemonade." Shortly after, a string of high-profile appearances with Mrs. Carter followed: a visit to the White House one minute, a string of shoutouts on her Instagram account the next. You see, the two signed a $1 million contract to Beyonce's Parkwood Entertainment. The sisters have since earned press from everyone from Elle to Rolling Stone, and they haven't even released an album yet. But judging by the sound of their EP, "Sugar Symphony," a whimsical and atmospheric mix of ballads and up-tempo house, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Emily King

The Grammy-winning New York native singer had us at Tituss Burgess. If you haven't seen her video for the single "BYIMM" featuring the "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" star, then stop what you're doing and Google it now. Her new album, "The Switch," has even more of the same: her light and husky vocals set to a tight soulful beat and retro instrumentation. It's a little Prince and a little Stevie Wonder — soulful, but slightly skewed. Her vocal stylings are as unmistakable as her trademark quiff.



Sza

From a collaboration with Rihanna on the track "Consideration" to a critically approved appearance at Coachella, Sza (born Solana Rowe) is having a good year. Not to mention her collaborations with labelmate Kendrick Lamar, as well as Willow Smith and Nicki Minaj. The buzzy partnerships have sufficiently raised anticipation, and expectations, for more of her sleepy, highly listenable soprano with her full-length album, "A," due out this summer.

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Camila Alves takes us to Rio

The model and lifestyle expert on what to serve for your Olympics party

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GETTY IMAGES

While Camila Alves and hubby Matthew McConaughey are cheering on Team U.S.A in Rio de Janeiro as we speak, the 34-year-old Brazilian-American model's favorite hometown dish is hitting grocery stores stateside.

"Brazilian food is very flavorful. We do a lot of protein," says Alves, who recently teamed up with Brazilian company Forno de Minas, makers of *pão de queijo* (cheese rolls).

"One of the first things I do when I get off the plane [in Brazil] is buy *pão de queijo*. But now it's here, and you can find it in the freezer aisle of your local grocery store," she says.

The multitasking Alves — she launched her own lifestyle website, womenoftoday.com; is a co-founder of Yummy Spoonfuls, an organic frozen baby food brand; and is the co-host of Food Network's "Kids BBQ Championship" — is indulging in local eats while she's in Rio acting as a correspondent for the E! network.

"When I go home, I love to eat *feijoada*, traditional Brazilian black-bean soup with ham and sausage. It's served with rice and pico de gallo salsa that we make," she says.

And it's a dish she loves making for McConaughey and their three children. But if she could pass down just one dish to her kids, Alves says it would be the Brazilian version of chicken stroganoff.

"It's completely different from the European stroganoff," she says. "We use Greek olives, and mushrooms — although I don't like the mushrooms, so I keep them out. And we use a Spanish cream [Media Crema] that isn't used in the European version. Brazilian food has a lot of protein, so if there isn't enough chicken, it isn't real Brazilian stroganoff."

Alves' Brazilian chicken stroganoff

Ingredients:
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 bone-in split chicken breasts with skin
- 1 tablespoon achiote paste (annatto seed)
- 2 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 6 cloves garlic smashed in a mortar and pestle or placed in a plastic bag and hit with a ladle
- 1/4 red pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 cup packed chopped cilantro
- 1 white onion, diced
- 1 tomato, quartered
- 4 cups water (divided on half)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup of corn (frozen, fresh or canned)
- 1/3 cup sliced green olives
- 2 tablespoons Media Crema (find it in the Mexican aisle of your grocery store – open can and refrigerate for 15 min only using the cream that rises to the top)
- Cooked rice, for serving

Preparation:

1. Heat slow cooker on high, add oil, chicken skin side down, salt and achiote into slow cooker. Toss to coat chicken.

2. In a blender, add smashed garlic, red pepper, cilantro, diced onion, and tomato. Pour in 2 cups of water and blend well. Pour blended mixture over chicken in slow cooker and then add two more cups of water to slow cooker.

3. Cook on high for 4 hours.

4. Drain the chicken and vegetables, reserving all the broth.

5. Let chicken cool and pull/shred meat from the chicken breasts.

6. Return the meat to a large fry pan. Add corn, green olives and only the cream that rises to the top of the Media Creme, and some of the reserved chicken stock to reach your desired consistency.

7. Warm it up and serve with rice.

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"15 Villainous Fools"

Ever since the success of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," playwrights have been revamping the Bard's centuries-old works for modern audiences. Right on track with this trend, "15 Villainous Fools" is a two-woman show parodying Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," jam-packed with fun tidbits like remixes of rap songs, pop culture references and spontaneous dance numbers.

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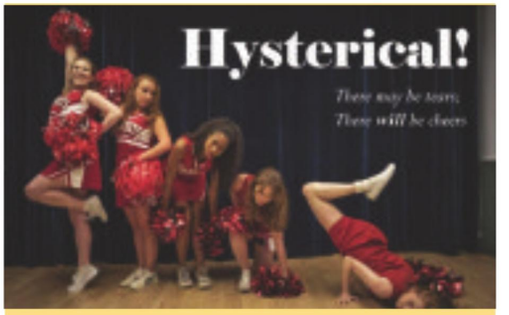
Everyone wants to know, "Where's the next 'Hamilton'?" Your best chance to catch a cultural phenomenon before it takes off is coming at FringeNYC, which returns Aug. 12-28. We've got five shows you can't miss — and at just $18 per ticket, you should see them all.

HELEN MURPHY

"Eve and Her Neighbors"

Biblical stories aren't always relatable, but we all know what relationship drama is like. Author Ruby Hutson-Ellenberg goes not just for any couple, but the first couple ever in her play, "Eve and Her Neighbors." The day of Adam and Eve's one-year anniversary becomes a not-so-romantic occasion after trouble with a certain in-law, causing Eve to storm off on her own and meet other women for the first time, as well as a certain snake ...



"Hysterical!"

The high school struggle is real, and even the lucky ones who seem to have it all together are probably hanging on by a thread. Inspired by news reports of real life events involving mass hysteria among high schoolers, the Bandits' cheerleaders in Elenna Stauffer's comedy are having a stellar year — until one by one, the teens succumb to a mysterious illness and hilarious chaos ensues as the team's social hierarchy collapses.

"Walken on Sunshine"

How far will one man go to find Christopher Walken? In this fast-paced musical comedy, an out-of-luck filmmaker gets caught up in the moment and lies to an investor that he has secured Walken to star in his newest movie. Dave Droxler is the play's writer-star, a la Lin-Manuel Miranda, who goes on a wild hunt to find Walken and convince him to act in his film.

"Night of the Living N-Word!!"

The combination of slasher film, comedy and social commentary is certainly unexpected, but "Night of the Living N-Word!!" conquers all three genres as it wrestles with how white people have engaged with the Black Lives Matter movement. The play focuses on Barbra, a middle-aged Southern white woman who throws the most dangerous dinner party since "Clue."

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African food gets a showcase

When the first African Food Festival comes to the Brooklyn Navy Yard this weekend, Ishmael Osekre hopes attendees will connect in the way that food brings people together in his homeland.

"In every African setting, food is somehow involved," says Osekre, an event promoter who grew up in Ghana and moved to New York for college. "Music is actually in the background, it's an add-on to the gathering; food is what everyone unites around."

This weekend's two-day event is a chance to taste what's actually already in our own backyard. Several of the participating chefs have restaurants in the city, including Buka, Bunna and Madiba — and if you're already up on NYC's African food scene, get excited for Saturday's special dinner by Pierre Thiam, the Senegalese chef whose Le Grand Dakar was beloved in Clinton Hill before he turned his focus to catering.

Ishmael Osekre is the organizer of the first-ever African Food Festival. **PROVIDED**

If you go

African Food Festival
Aug. 13-14, noon-8 p.m.
Brooklyn Navy Yard
63 Flushing Ave., Brooklyn
$30-$2,500
afropolitaninsights.com

Besides walk-around tastings, there will be cooking demos, a vegan brunch and beverages like Ethiopian honey wine, palm wine, African beers and specialty teas.

While the fest celebrates all of Africa, there can be only one jollof. Both Nigeria and Ghana lay claim to inventing jollof, a beloved one-pot dish of rice stewed in a tomato sauce. Whomever created it, the festival will settle who makes it best as two chefs prepare their own versions onstage for a panel of expert judges.

It's not just Africa's cuisine you'll get a taste of — Osekre worked with an "experience architect" to design four distinct spaces representing regions of Africa, including opportunities for cultural experiences like an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, a shisha lounge and, of course, live music. **EVA KIS**

HOT PLATE

Believe in magic at The Eddy

Eva Kis eats her way through New York
eva.kis@metro.us

Boba, Bubble, Tea at The Eddy **ASIA COLADNER**

Did I take a wrong turn? Does the East Village have its own Diagon Alley? Walking into **The Eddy** (342 E. 6th St.) feels like discovering a sophisticated cocktail bar in the back of the Three Broomsticks, with its whitewashed walls and mahogany accents.

And the menu, which changed completely just three weeks ago, reads more like a potions recipe than what you'd normally find in a cocktail. Corn puree gets an infusion of sake and chili tincture for the Japanese Jimador, mellowing out the smoky Corralejo Blanco tequila into an Asian pina colada.

Or if you've ever wanted your favorite nonalcoholic drink to get a boozy makeover, try the Boba, Bubble, Tea — Saint Teresa rum, Campari and sweet vermouth are turned into Negroni Jell-O, which lurks as high-proof icebergs in the murky sea of matcha-infused sweetened condensed milk and Hendrick's gin. The presentation — a red napkin pulled over the glass with a classic giant straw — completes the effect. Warning: It doesn't taste alcoholic, but it really is.

Summer's trend is shaping up to be yogurt cocktails, but if that doesn't sound appealing, head bartender Luis Hernandez has found another way to add richness while keeping the drink refreshing: a rice wash. The ingredients for his Vanishing Act (Mizu Shochu, a Japanese liquor distilled from barley, cachaca, banana liqueur, sherry) spend the night soaking in sticky rice. The result is a delicate, velvety sipper served in a sake bottle.

And if you're done with summer, there's even a cocktail to make it disappear for a while: Jack the Rabbit, made with black tea-infused Tullamore Dew, nutmeg syrup and absinthe over mace ice — it's like tasting the crisp, clean air of the first real day of fall.

Still don't believe in magic?

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For more information visit **centralparknyc.org/filmfestival**

FREE | August 22 – 27

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Tickets are not required • All movies are open captioned • Event is subject to cancellation due to weather

@centralparknyc #CPCFilmFest centralparknyc.org/filmfestival

Marcus Garvey Park

(Amphitheater, enter on Fifth Avenue at 124th Street)

Mon, Aug. 22 **SCHOOL OF ROCK** PG-13

Tue, Aug. 23 **THE LAST DRAGON** PG-13

In partnership with Historic Harlem Parks

Central Park

(Landscape between Sheep Meadow and the 72nd Street Cross Drive)

Wed, Aug. 24 **I AM LEGEND** PG-13

Thu, Aug. 25 **TOOTSIE** PG

Fri, Aug. 26 **DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN** PG-13

Sat, Aug. 27 **STUART LITTLE** PG

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Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

Completed applications will only be accepted either by mail or online.

1. View the Available Units... → 2. See Unit Requirements

Unit Size	Monthly Rent*	Units Available	Household Size**	Annual Household Earnings***
Studio	$2,024	32	1 person	$70,732 - $82,550
1 bedroom	$2,170	15	1 person	$75,772 - $82,550
			2 people	$75,772 - $94,250
2 bedroom	$2,611	3	2 people	$90,926 - $94,250
			3 people	$90,926 - $106,080
			4 people	$90,926 - $117,780

* Rent includes gas for cooking.
** Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.
*** Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to **nyc.gov/housingconnect.** To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: *WEST END TOWERS c/o Urban Associates, LLC., P.O. BOX 230803 NEW YORK, NY 10023.*** Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **August 31, 2016.** Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: ***WEST END TOWERS c/o Urban Associates, LLC., P.O. BOX 230803 NEW YORK, NY 10023.*** En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de 31 de agosto 2016.

简体中文 访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至：***WEST END TOWERS c/o Urban Associates, LLC., P.O. BOX 230803 NEW YORK, NY 10023***. 信封背面请用英语注明"CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 2016年8月31日。

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العربية تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني nyc.gov/housingconnect. للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مظروف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: ***WEST END TOWERS c/o Urban Associates, LLC., P.O. BOX 230803 NEW YORK, NY 10023*** على الجهة الخلفية للمظروف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمها بختم البريد قبل 31 أغسطس، 2016.

Mayor Bill de Blasio • HPD Commissioner Vicki Been

Department of Housing Preservation & Development

ARTS, CULTURE, ACTION

An American

Ernest Hemingway, tiki culture and rum inspire a new cocktail bar from the Dead Rabbit team.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Sean Muldoon CREDIT

BlackTail opens Aug. 15 on the

A Cuban bar by a couple of Irish guys makes a lot more sense when you realize Ernest Hemingway is involved.

"I became familiar more with [Hemingway's] drinking exploits than his writing. I got into his writing after I got into his drinking," says Sean Muldoon of the Dead Rabbit, and another soon-to-be-destination cocktail bar BlackTail, which opens Aug. 15 on the second floor of Pier A Harbor House in Battery Park. "He was the first rock 'n' roll star before rock 'n' roll was even heard of. He was larger than life."

It was particularly Hemingway's famously lush time in Cuba while American bars were either closing or risking everything to keep serving patrons during the Prohibition era that interested Muldoon years before the Dead Rabbit. In a way, his first New York City bar with business partner Jack McGarry — which was named World's Best Bar by the Spirited Awards in 2015 — was them paying their dues by establishing themselves with a project peo-

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

The man, the chef, the legend. ALL PHOTOS EVA KIS

If you're counting carbs, the new Eataly Downtown is actually the best place to go, according to Mario Batali.

"This is a celebration of carbohydrates," says the celebrity chef inside Osteria della Pace, the upscale restaurant tucked in the back of the new Italian food hall, which opens Aug. 11. "Because when you don't eat a lot of carbs, when you do eat them you want them to be the very best they can. You have a nice piece of beautiful focaccia here, or a plate of cacio e pepe, you don't need carbs for a couple of days because you're high on that memory."

And while the new Eataly, at 101 Liberty St., couldn't be in a busier part of town, Batali has

bar by way of Cuba

EL PRESIDENTE AND MARY PICKFORD

second floor of Pier A Harbor House. ALL PHOTOS EVA KIS

ple would understand: a whiskey-focused Irish bar from two Belfast expats.

Like the notorious Irish gang that was the namesake of their first bar, BlackTail has its own shady source: the black tailfins of the planes that took thirsty Americans to free-wheeling Cuba during the Prohibition era of the 1920s and '30s. Laid back but refined, BlackTail is meant to evoke an American bar set in Cuba, with Vern Evans' classic photos of the country on the walls and the staff wearing jaunty fedora-style hats.

And the theme goes beyond Hemingway's decadent approach to dodging anti-liquor laws. "Rum was probably the first spirit that I was into when I was learning cocktails," Muldoon confesses. "I've always loved tiki-style drinks — and that whole thing of escapism when you walk into a tiki bar: No matter how bad you feel, you walk out feeling good."

Though there are no Cuban rums on the menu (they're not legal to import yet) the team created their own blend and kept the five categories of drinks — highballs, cocktails, sours, punches and Old Fashioneds — pretty classic, adding their usual contemporary flourishes. Even the standard rum and Coke got a spin: Puerto Rican rum gets a deep note from fernet branca, but also a lift of champagne.

Accompanying the cocktails ($16) is a seafood-heavy small-plates menu with items like ancho chili-glazed chicken lollipops, Gulf shrimp and watermelon skewers, Cuban sliders made with rabbit (wink, wink) and tres leches cake.

Your carb recommendation: spaghetti pomodoro at Osteria della Pace

his own relaxed approach to making the most of the massive food hall. "I would come in and spend three or four hours, like if I was going to a little town in Tuscany or Amalfi," he says.

Batali's day would begin at the bakery counter with a piece of focaccia, then "a little aperitivo, maybe an Aperol spritz or Campari soda." Feeling peckish again, he'd hit up the freshly made pizza or pasta counters and throw in a scoop of gelato before whiling away a quiet hour or so inside Osteria della Pace enjoying the view (or even taking a nap in one of the large semi-circular booths). "This is a hang-friendly place, it's not like, get in and get out, we want people to feel comfortable here," he says.

Alas, most of us — Batali included — don't have that kind of time, so we asked the Greenwich Village resident for his recommendations for a normal-length dinner.

Date night

"[My wife] Susi and I go to **Via Carota**, we go to **Momofuku Noodle Bar** for a loud, boisterous experience — that's my favorite, that's my first love of the David Chang empire. And every now and then, we'll go to **Da Silvano**." *51 Grove St., 171 First Ave., 260 Avenue of the Americas*

Hidden gems

"The city has discovered everything; even the brand-new places, the city has discovered. For me, a hidden gem experience particularly when Europeans come from out of town is **Katz's Deli**, **Morgenstern's Finest Ice Cream**. I go down to the Lower East Side, I go to **Pig & Khao**, that's kind of undiscovered and it should be more discovered." *205 E. Houston St., 2 Rivington St., 68 Clinton St.*

Cheap eats

"**Num Pang** sandwiches; and don't forget **Gray's Papaya**, they're a fantastic hot dog." *Eight locations; 2090 Broadway*

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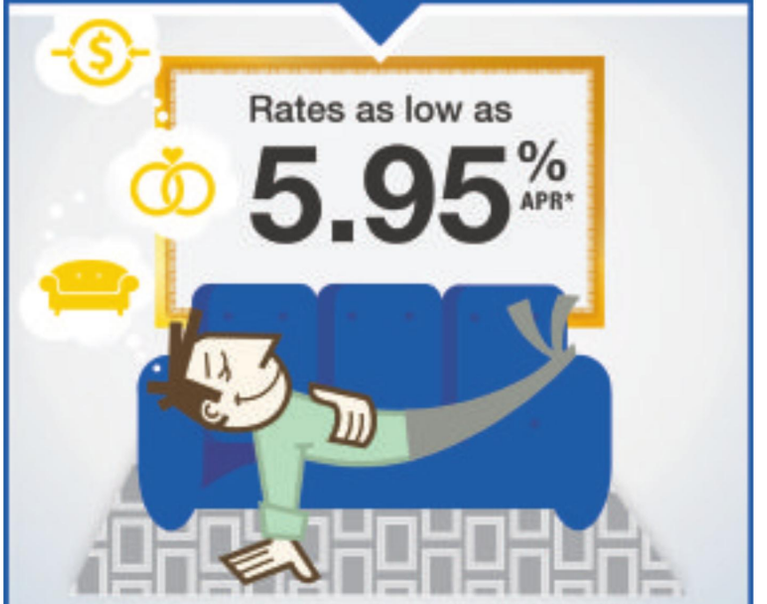

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Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

A percentage of units is set aside for:

- Mobility-disabled applicants (5%)
- Vision- or hearing-disabled applicants (2%)

Preference for a percentage of units goes to:

- Residents of **Brooklyn Community District 5** (50%)
- NYCHA- affiliated applications* (25%)
- Municipal employees (5%)

1. View the Available Units... → 2. See Unit Requirements

Unit Size	Monthly Rent**	Units Available		Household Size***	Annual Household Earnings****
Studio	$788	1	→	1 person	$28,355 - $38,100
1 bedroom	$847	102	→	1 person	$30,412 - $38,100
				2 people	$30,412 - $43,500
2 bedrooms	$836	1	→	2 people	$30,069 - $36,250
				3 people	$30,069 - $40,800
				4 people	$30,069 - $45,300
2 bedrooms	$1,025	77	→	2 people	$36,549 - $43,500
				3 people	$36,549 - $48,960
				4 people	$36,549 - $54,360
3 bedroom	$963	2	→	3 people	$34,869 - $40,800
				4 people	$34,869 - $45,300
				5 people	$34,869 - $48,950
				6 people	$34,869 - $52,550
3 bedrooms	$1,182	8	→	3 people	$42,378 - $48,960
				4 people	$42,378 - $54,360
				5 people	$42,378 - $58,740
				6 people	$42,378 - $63,060

*NYCHA preference priority as follows:
(i) Current residents of Linden Houses and Boulevard houses
(ii) Authority public housing residents residing in Brooklyn Community District 5
(iii) Current residents of other Authority public housing developments
(iv) Current Authority Section 8 Voucher Holders.

** Rent includes heating and gas for cooking
*** Household size includes everyone who will live with you including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria
****Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, social security, child support and other income. Income guidelines subject to change

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Stanley Commons c/o Langsam Property Services, 1601 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10462.**

Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **September 27, 2016**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: **Stanley Commons c/o Langsam Property Services, 1601 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10462.** En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de **27 de septiembre 2016.**

简体中文 访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至 **Stanley Commons c/o Langsam Property Services, 1601 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10462.** 信封背面请用英语注明 "CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 **2016 年 9 月 27 日.**

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한국어 nyc.gov/housingconnect 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 반송용 봉투를 **Stanley Commons c/o Langsam Property Services, 1601 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10462.** 으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오 **2016 년 9 월 27 일** 까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.

Kreyòl Ayisyien Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb nyc.gov/housingconnect. Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvlòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: **Stanley Commons c/o Langsam Property Services, 1601 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10462.** Nan dèyè anvlòp la, ekri mo "HAITIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat **septanm 27, 2016.**

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Mayor Bill de Blasio • HPD Commissioner Vicki Been • HDC President Gary D. Rodney • NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye

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PROVIDED

DANCE

Battery Dance Festival

The city's longest-running outdoor dance festival is back next week with a mix of new and professional dancers and choreographers from around the world showcasing a range of styles. In addition to free daily performances, there are also free workshops at Battery Dance Studios, and it closes with a ticketed event and reception at Pace University's Schimmel Center. **Aug. 14-20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park, Battery Park City, free, batterydance.org**

FILM

"Romeo + Juliet"

Baz Luhrmann's "Romeo + Juliet" is the last free outdoor movie of the season in Tompkins Square Park, and the neighborhood is turning out to send it off properly. On Thursday, the Eastville Restaurant Collective adds a food fair featuring Boulton & Watt, Huertas, GG's, Goodnight Sonny's, Virginia's and more serving small plates from $2.50 to $9. Gates open at 5, with food booths open until 9, and the movie starts at sundown. There will also be live music by Faith before the film. **Aug. 11, 5 p.m., Tompkins Square Park, free, freefilmsintompkins.com**

ARTS

Summer DJ Boom Box

The Brooklyn Museum's "Tom Sachs: Boombox Retrospective, 1999-2006" is closing this week, but not without one last dance party. The exhibition highlights street music culture with sculptures of boom boxes made from common materials that pump out curated playlists, but on Aug. 11 it's catch a free Summer DJ Boom Box Residency with live sets played on the exhibit's boom boxes "spun" by Jasmine Solano, Zach Witness, Joe Hova and Busquelo from 6 to 9:45 p.m. **Exhibit through Aug. 14, Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, free with admission, brooklynmuseum.org**

PERFORMANCE

"Mortified"

You couldn't pay most people to revisit humiliating teen diary entries or watch old home movies. However, there are a few brave souls willing to get onstage and do just that — and we are definitely willing to pay to watch them. At "Mortified," entertainers read aloud from the most embarrassing chapters of their lives, exposing their darkest moments, silliest crushes and floweriest poems. Thankfully Littlefield has alcohol — for both the performers and the audience. **Aug. 11, 8 p.m., Littlefield, 622 DeGraw St., $10, littlefieldnyc.com**

COMEDY

Justin Willman

You might not know his name, but you've likely seen comedian Justin Willman hosting Food Network's "Cupcake Wars" and "King of Cones." And you might know his affinity for magic tricks, thanks to Comedy Central's "Sleight of Mouth." Catch him mixing mediums on his Fake Believe Tour, which pairs sleight of hand with sly wit, adding up to an adult evening of laughs (the two-drink minimum doesn't hurt). Shows are 7:30, with extras Friday and Saturday at 10. **Aug. 11-14, Carolines on Broadway, 1626 Broadway, $37.50, carolines.com**

RETRO

Jazz Age Lawn Party

It's your last chance to break out the garters and pearls for the Jazz Age Lawn Party. The two-day festival dedicated to the music and dance moves of the 1920s will be headlined by Michael Arenella and His Dreamland Orchestra, Gregory Moore and the Dreamland Follies, crooner Queen Esther and the tapping Minsky Sisters. There are also bites from local faves like Melt Bakery and Luke's Lobster and vintage-inspired cocktails by St. Germain. **Aug. 13-14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Governors Island, $45-$5,000, jazzagelawnparty.com**

DRINKS

Beer Olympics

Capture the spirit, if not quite the point, of the Rio Olympics at Village Pourhouse's Summer Beer Olympics. Go for gold in games like Ultimate Beer Pong, Flip Cup and Jenga. Winning teams receive a free happy hour at the bar. Participants enjoy an open bar and appetizers, while spectators can show up for free and take advantage of drink specials. Hot tip: Use code CHAMPION for half-price tickets! **Aug. 13, 2-6 p.m., Village Pourhouse, 64 Third Ave., free-$90, villagepourhouse.com**

ARTS

"the public domain"

In a historic pop-up concert, 1,000 amateur and professional singers will congregate across Lincoln Center for the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang's "the public domain." The new piece brings together performers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds singing lyrics based on the auto-complete function of Google searches, like "One thing we all have is ___." **Aug. 13, 5 p.m., Lincoln Center, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, free, mostlymozart.org**

BASEBALL

Pride Night

LGBT baseball fans get their own night at Citi Field this Saturday. Before the Mets face off against the San Diego Padres, there will be a Pride in the Plaza show; after the game, stick around for a concert from rock legends the Styx. Proceeds go toward the LGBT Network and its Safe Schools Initiative. **Aug. 13, 7:10 p.m., Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Queens, $35-$85, mlb.com**

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

Summer fun at ski resorts

Summer can't stop the fun at these year-round resorts.

Fodor's Travel

Mohonk Mountain House JIM SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Just because there's no snow doesn't mean ski resorts close their doors. Biking, alpine slides, golf and fly fishing are just a few of the outdoor activities at these year-round destinations. ZACHARY LAKS

Whiteface Lake Placid

You'll find a bevy of outdoor activities at this New York resort, including riding down a professional bobsled course. With professionals at the helm, this is a rare chance to experience Olympic greatness (or as close to it as most of us will get). The Summer Jumping Series offers a fun way to showcase ski jumpers (don't worry, they land in a deep pool).

Mohonk Mountain House

Mohonk Mountain House's grandeur stands as a classic architectural wonder from the 19th century. Perched on beautiful Lake Mohonk in New York, the summer season turns this resort into a relaxing getaway for urbanites seeking fresh air. Daily activities include workshops and hikes, and meals are included in the price of your stay — and the food is worth raving about.

Sunday River

The summer roster at this Newry, Maine, resort is filled with exciting outdoor activities that are sure to thrill all guests. L.L. Bean has recently partnered with Sunday River to offer a variety of activities including adventure hikes, archery and stand-up paddleboarding. Its zipline course sends riders down six lines up to 300 feet in length before a final zip down the epic 750-foot Twin Zip.

Killington Resort

In the heart of Vermont lies the tiny town of Killington, home to the largest ski area in the eastern U.S. Come summertime, Killington Resort entices guests with its 45 miles of mountain-biking terrain accessible from a gondola. Golfers can enjoy the 18-hole, Geoffrey Cornish-designed course amid the scenic mountain landscape. Those seeking to enjoy the views on foot have more than 15 miles of hiking trails.

Northstar California Resort

This sophisticated Lake Tahoe resort is a relaxing escape during the summer season. The resort is set in the mountains, and the golf course is both renowned and challenging (also keep an eye out for the new minigolf course). Fly fishing is offered through the secluded and private Sawmill Lake. Add 43 bike trails accessible from three lifts and 15 hiking trails, and you'll never want to be indoors.

Attitash Mountain Resort

Bartlett, New Hampshire's Attitash takes on a new life come summer with a compound filled with family activities and outdoor thrills. The scenic Mountain Coaster is the resort's highlight, taking riders up the mountainside and down sharp turns. Also check out the alpine slides, including the longest in America, for a real rush. Cool off on two waterslides after a long day in the sun.

Big Sky Resort

As the basecamp for the great Yellowstone National Park, Montana's Big Sky Resort offers a complete summer package. Get soaked while you paddle through the waves of the great Gallatin River on a whitewater rafting excursion, or harness up at the ropes course. For something a little less physical, Andesite Mountain offers a picturesque setting for skeet shooting.

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Disney's Typhoon Lagoon GETTY IMAGES

Noah's Ark

With 51 water slides on 70 acres of prime Wisconsin Dells property, Noah's Ark Water Park is officially the largest water park in the U.S. Start with the park's most popular slide, Scorpion's Tail, a wondrous feat of physics that drops riders through a trapdoor capsule into a nearly inverted loop.

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

One of two water parks at Disney World Resort, Typhoon Lagoon is styled as a disheveled beach town that has just resurfaced. Park standouts include one of the world's biggest wave pools and the Crush 'n' Gusher water coaster that rockets riders on rafts through tight curves and bunny-hill drops.

Tropical Islands

Converting a former aircraft hangar into Tropical Islands, the world's largest indoor water park, was no small feat for Krausnick in Germany. The park has four distinct areas, themed to recreate a rainforest and the exotic coasts of Bali.

Aquaventure

A desert oasis set on the shore of the Persian Gulf, Dubai's Aquaventure Waterpark is a standout amusement in a city known for its opulence. Attached to the plush Atlantis Resort on the man-made Palm Jumeira island, Aquaventure offers a wealth of thrilling slides, but none more elaborate than the Leap of Faith: a nine-story near-vertical drop slide that sends riders in an enclosed tube through shark-infested waters.

Siam Park

On Tenerife Island in the Canary Islands, the lush grounds of Siam Park in Adeje, Spain, overflow with charm and character. Completed in 2008, Siam Park (it's Thai themed) holds a few world records with its innovative engineering, including the world's largest man-made wave (11 feet!) in its expansive wave pool, the world's largest dragon statue, and the largest collection of Thai-themed buildings outside Thailand.

Beach Park

The palm trees and cool breeze beach themes come naturally at Beach Park, a premier Brazilian resort set on the Atlantic coast in Aquiraz. The park has made a name for itself with its impressive slides and well-maintained beachfront. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy the view as your make your way up to the monstrous Insano, the park's iconic drop slide.

Waterbom Bali

Trade a day on the beach for a wet and wild adventure at Waterbom Bali water park in Kuta, Indonesia. The Climax slide steals the spotlight — a vertical looping fall-out slide that propels riders along at over 40 mph and 2.5 G-forces. The park is a family favorite, with an impressively adorned tropical lazy river snaking throughout the park.

Aqualandia

If you're thinking of swimming in the canals of Venice, consider trekking about 45 minutes east instead to Aqualandia in Jesolo. More than 25 attractions fill the park's eight areas themed to replicate the Caribbean seaside. Don't miss Spacemaker, one of the tallest slides in the world, nearly 138 feet high and reaching speeds of 74 mph.

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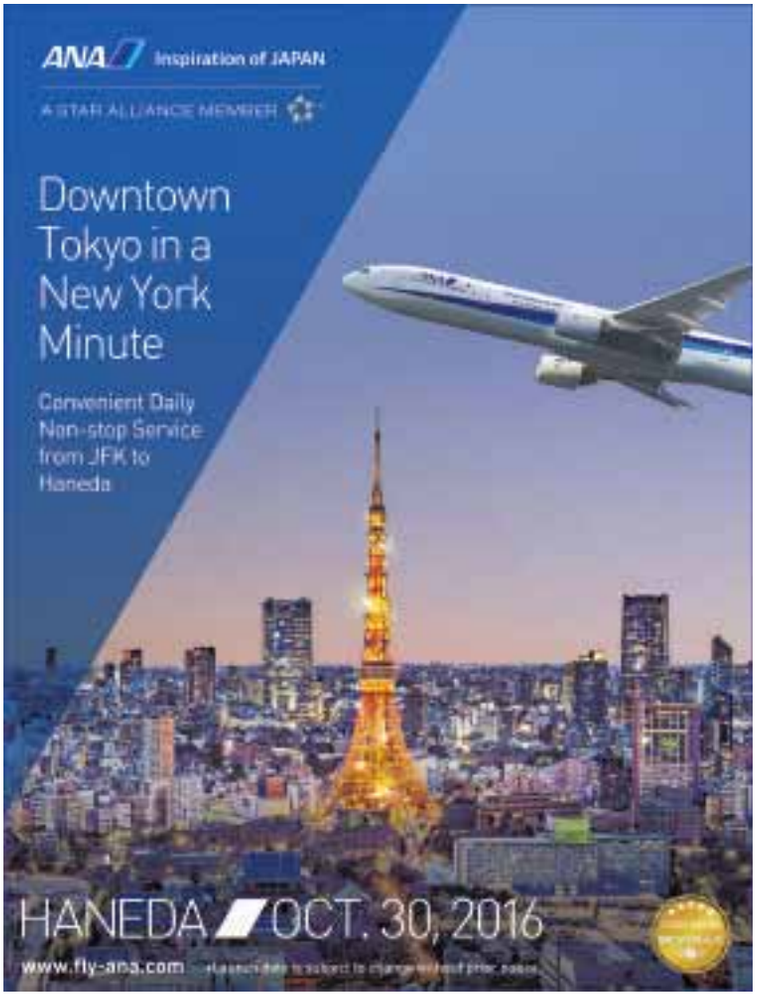
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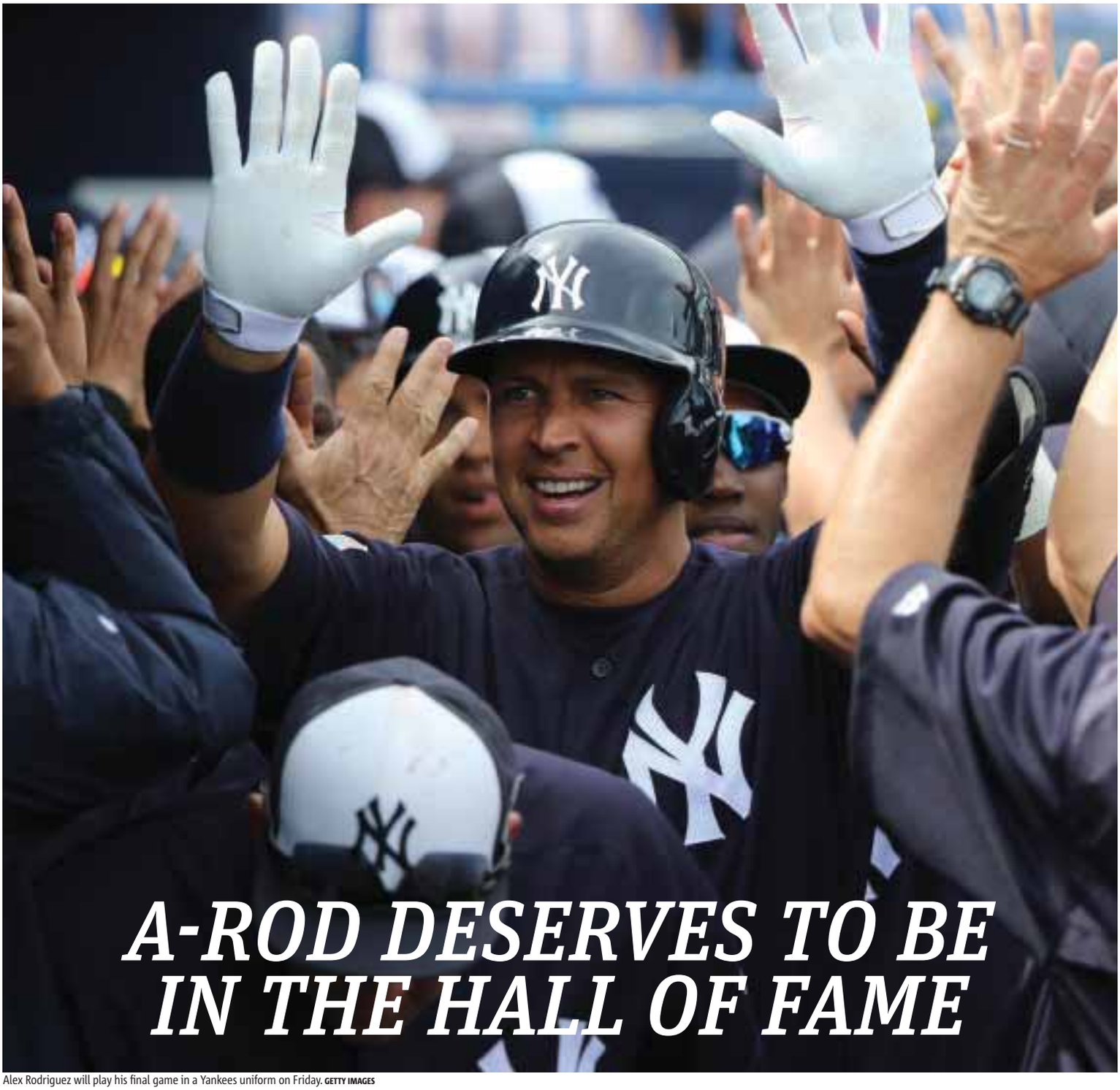

A-ROD DESERVES TO BE IN THE HALL OF FAME

Alex Rodriguez will play his final game in a Yankees uniform on Friday. GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

SID ROSENBERG
@sidrosenberg

The seemingly neverending saga that is Alex Rodriguez's Major League Baseball career will be coming to an end Friday evening in the Bronx. After a 22-year run and on the heels of teammate Mark Teixeira announcing his retirement at season's end, baseball's most notorious villain will hang up his cleats for good.

Over A-Rod's career he has amassed 3,114 base hits, 2,084 runs batted in, 696 home runs and a whopping $410 million playing for the Mariners, Rangers and Yankees. When he broke into the league in 1994, I don't think anyone could have expected what was to come from A-Rod. One of the most physically gifted baseball players the game has ever seen had his ups and downs during his career both on and off the field. We all know about the repeated PED scandals, but we forget that he did — in fact — have a positive impact on the game.

Despite what your perception of Alex Rodriguez has been, the man showed up to work every day with a smile on his face and played the game that he loved with a childlike enthusiasm. Being able to enjoy what you do for a living is something that a lot of people never get to do and A-Rod took full advantage of the opportunity he had (and then some). It's unfortunate that he will be mostly remembered for using steroids, but to watch him go out every day and play was a treat because you could see how much fun he had playing baseball. His spirit was contagious and every time he stepped onto the field you could feel his spirit.

The next stage in A-Rod's life will most definitely an interesting one because we know he cannot stay out of the spotlight for long. Every year when the baseball writers vote for who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, A-Rod's name will be brought up. I believe that he deserves to be in the Hall despite the steroid controversy he brought upon himself. It takes a man to admit he is wrong and A-Rod has done that numerous times now. That shows the character he has.

Also, it's not like A-Rod is the only guy being considered for the Hall of Fame that has had issues with PEDs in the past. Quite honestly, it would not surprise me if it came out that maybe 20 percent of the players in the Hall of Fame used some sort of PED in their career.

In an age where being in the spotlight comes along with all eyes are on you at all times, it was inevitable that A-Rod was going to get caught. It seems like every three weeks a player is suspended in some level of baseball for using illegal drugs, but those players are not in the spotlight that A-Rod had shined on him.

A-Rod had one hell of a career, and the future for him is brighter than most people may think. Whether he ends up working for an MLB team, or a television network, his friendly demeanor and personality will be an asset to the baseball community as a whole.

Sid Rosenberg co-hosts 'The Bernie and Sid Show' on WABC in New York. You can reach him on Twitter @SidRosenberg

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Sterling Shepard was drafted in the second round by the Giants. GETTY IMAGES

Giants with sky-high expectations for rookie WR Shepard

If he pans out, Sterling Shepard would complete the Giants' offense.

KRISTIAN DYER
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Sterling Shepard is looking like the real deal, and a player who can help transform the New York Giants from good into something special.

A second-round pick out of Oklahoma, Shepard is the slot receiver the Giants needed to help balance their passing game. With the rookie in the slot, pressure is taken off of All-Pro Odell Beckham, a necessary addition to keep defenses from shifting to Beckham's side of the field. The fact that he is a fluid route runner who can get good separation makes him a solid addition to the passing game.

That he is dynamic in the open field makes him a downright threat, especially with a proven quarterback like Eli Manning throwing him the ball.

Now, after three weeks of going up against teammates, Shepard will get the chance on Friday to put the pads on for the first time as a professional. The Giants open their preseason against the Miami Dolphins at MetLife Stadium.

"Yeah, it is just like the saying, 'you practice like you play', so I try to give it 100 percent effort at practice all the time because it truly does show up in the games, so I expect that," Shepard said.

The knock on Shepard is that he is small but he's a perfect fit for the Giants in the slot. He's also a tough competitor, bringing some bite to the receiving corps as well as being a good downfield blocker.

If Victor Cruz can remain healthy, then the Giants passing game can be a top unit and offset questions along the offensive line.

Shepard also might be able to make an impact on special teams, despite not doing much in college with the unit. Because he boasts good speed (Shepard ran a 4.48 at the NFL combine in March) and shiftiness, it would simply be another way for the Giants to potentially get the ball in his hands in the open field.

"It is just different technique, just different things with the special teams. I didn't do much in college. I did punt return," Shepard said. "They have me doing some things out here that is new to me, but I am getting it down, I am still learning and it is coming along."

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At the sprawling Rio Games, even spectators are worn out

Logistics proving to be an issues at Olympics.

Fans take in beach volleyball in Rio. GETTY IMAGES

Less than a week into the Olympics and people are looking tired around Rio de Janeiro.

That is not just the athletes, mind you, but the spectators trekking between hundreds of competitions across the sprawling city, where long commutes, vibrant beaches and alluring nightlife add to the exhaustion of actually watching the sports.

Catch a bus or subway back into town from one of the Games' many outlying venues, or merely walk around Olympic sites between events, and you will see people as spent as if they had completed a decathlon.

"I'm dead," said Rodrigo Escobar, a 24-year-old Argentinian who lay next to his father on a patch of grass after a handball match. "We were planning to go out tonight, but there's no way – we wouldn't have energy for tomorrow."

Part of the fatigue has to do with the logistics involved in such a large program, featuring more than 300 medal events, 11,000 athletes and venues that can be as far as 25 miles from one another, as is the case if you wanted to catch beach volleyball and, say, canoeing in the same day.

But it also has to do with the fact that many visitors want to pack it all in, like an overeager toddler at Disney World or the first-time tourist in Paris hoping to see the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame in one day.

"People should know they have to pace themselves," says Duane Penner, a sales executive with Roadtrips Inc., a Canadian tour operator, who is in Rio with Olympic clients and says he tells them as much even before they leave home.

"You need to build some time in to rest or even take the sights in."

"KEEP GOING"

At a spectacle about endurance, though, many spectators are as single-minded as the athletes.

Consider Lorna Montgomery, a 54-year-old visitor from England who came with her husband, Billy, to attend events each day for the duration of the Games. Some days, they get home at 2 a.m.

From a rented room in the central neighborhood of Laranjeiras on Tuesday, they awoke at dawn to make a rowing event at a lagoon 45 minutes away by car, lunched briefly at a nearby shopping center and then proceeded another 90 minutes by subway and bus to watch basketball in the evening.

"It can be hard," Montgomery says, sitting with her husband on two towels they brought, along with water bottles and rain ponchos. "But you just have to keep going."

With fatigue in mind, organizers point to the amenities they provided for spectators, roughly a million of whom are expected to attend the Games by the time they end Aug. 21.

At the Olympic Park, about a half square mile of concrete that houses nine arenas for sports such as swimming, gymnastics and fencing, as many as 150,000 people are passing through daily. However enthusiastic they may appear inside the venues, cheering and heckling at an Olympics already known for its noisy crowds, many of them by nightfall are exhausted.

Late on Tuesday, as the sun set behind a multicolored tennis arena where Rafa Nadal had just won, visitors sprawled across astroturf swatches, some of them sleeping, some of them watching events on giant screens set up before them.

Nearby, a golf cart driven by an Olympic volunteer pauses at a stop on a circuit set up for elderly and disabled visitors to hitch rides.

"Even healthy people want to get on," says Marcos Bertão, the 58-year-old driver, who says he has to change carts every three hours, after driving the circuit dozens of times, to get a fresh battery. Just then, a coupled of middle-aged Brazilians, tired but hardly infirm, ask if they can get on.

"They're not supposed to," Bertão says, but then turns, relents and drives them toward the exit. REUTERS

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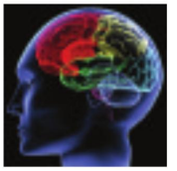

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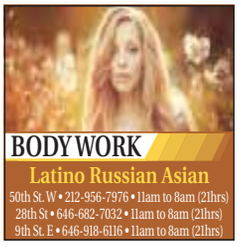
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NOTICE OF FORMATION of Jazminway LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on May 11, 2016. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 146-28 184th Street, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. Purpose: Real Estate Investment.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1296343, for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 45 E. 20th Street, New York, NY 10003. New York County, for on premise consumption. Refresh Club Inc.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly granted and entered in and action entitled NYCTL 2012-A Trust and The Bank of New York Mellon as Collateral Agent and Custodian for NYCTL 2012-A Trust v. Carranza, bearing Index No. 18721-13 before the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, IAS Part 32, on or about November 5, 2015, I, the Referee, duly appointed in this action for such purpose, will expose for sale and sell at public auction to the highest bidder on September 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom 25 of the Queens County Supreme Court located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11435, the liened premises designated as Block 9331, Lot 132, in the City of New York, County and Borough of Queens, State of New York and known as 123rd Street, Queens, New York, directed in and by said judgment to be sold. The approximate amount of the judgment is $3,831.10 plus interest and other charges, and the property is being sold subject to the terms and conditions stated in the judgment, any prior encumbrances and the terms of the sale which shall be available at the time of the sale. Dated: August 11, 2016 New York, New York.

NORA C. MARINO, ESQ. Referee
175 East Shore Road Great Neck, NY 11023 (516) 829-8399.

DAVID P. STICH, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10175 (646) 554-4421.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of LILLY AND RAUL LLC. Articles of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/17/16. Office location New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process c/o the LLC, 30 East 40th Street, Suite 601, New York, NY 10016, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of FAIRBNS LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/12/2016. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 909 3rd Ave., # 6496, New York, NY 10150. Purpose: Real Estate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1296447, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 67 Bayard St., Store 1, New York, NY 10013, for on-premises consumption. Chang An Shen Inc.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Tavern Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 901 Broadway, Basement Floor, New York, NY 10003, for on-premises consumption. Brooks Brothers Restaurant LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number pending, for Beer & Wine, has been applied for by the undersigned, to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 1664 Park Ave, New York, NY 10035. New York County, for on premises consumption. C2C Restaurant Group, Inc. dba Chef Eddie G's Kitchen

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1296429, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 28 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10011. New York County, for on premise consumption. Virgola LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Tavern Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 1374 3rd Ave., New York, NY 10075, for on- premises consumption. Shigemitsu New York, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1296457, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 81 St Marks Pl., Store 7, New York, NY 10003, for on-premises consumption. Xi An Famous Foods Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 257 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010, for on- premises consumption. BEK 1 LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number TBA, for Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2602 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306, for on-premises consumption. Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC.

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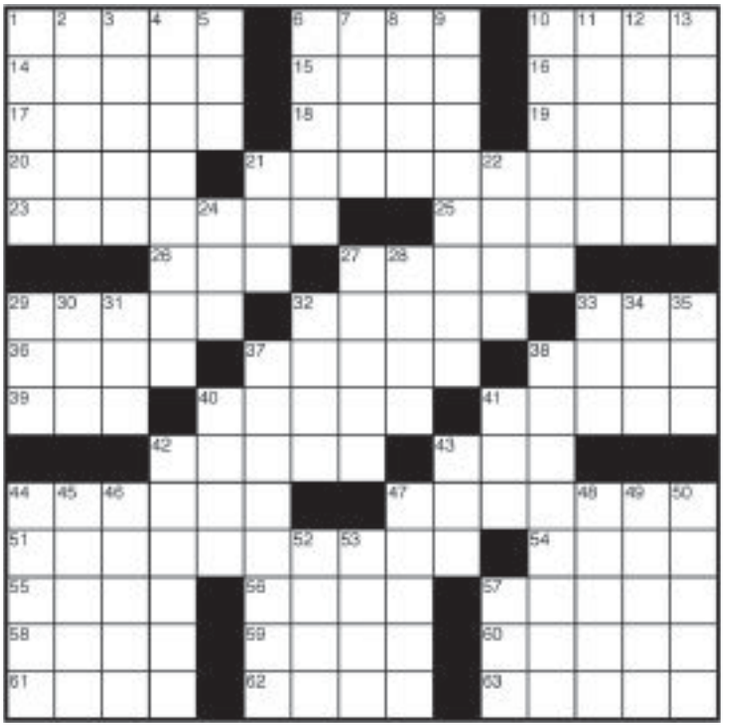
Across

1 Port near Gibraltar
6 Mild expletive
10 Kahuna's spud
14 "Forget" a letter
15 "— wife had seven sacks ..."
16 Big-ticket –
17 Quay
18 Stead
19 Livy's togs
20 Harrow rival
21 Beach find (2 wds.)
23 Power source
25 Lives as a permanent resident
26 Mir successor, briefly
27 Bridle parts
29 Gorges
32 Toe woes
33 Gem-grade coal
36 Jump through hoops
37 Lengthwise
38 Hacker's pets?
39 Nanny's offspring
40 Wind around
41 Access the Web (2 wds.)
42 Eggy desserts
43 Checkbook amt.
44 Real
47 Dessert wine
51 For the most part (2 wds.)
54 Jagged rock
55 Heavyweight sport
56 Yukon, briefly
57 Edible paste
58 NFL broadcaster
59 "La — Bonita" (Madonna tune)
60 Take up or let out
61 Hens and mares
62 Four six-packs
63 Flakes off

Down

1 Superstar
2 Comics queen
3 Piece of turf
4 Recognize
5 Final letter
6 Postpone
7 Drought relief
8 Breezed through
9 Thumping
10 Boxers' goals
11 Ring-shaped reef
12 Queenly
13 Sharif et al.
21 Almost grads
22 Pays for
24 Dangerous curve
27 Pawn takers
28 Marine bird
29 Stir-fry pan
30 Teahouse attire
31 Was out in front
32 Plaid wearers
33 Lively dance
34 Environmental prefix
35 Half a score
37 Skilled in reasoning
38 Atom's home
40 Shutter part
41 Terhune collie
42 Japanese bedrolls
43 Ebenezer's cry of disgust
44 Basilica areas
45 Squeeze hard
46 Fiesta Bowl town
47 Carmen of jazz
48 Fit to be tied
49 "Bolero" writer
50 Petri dish gels
52 Oater backdrop
53 WWW addresses
57 Opening



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easy

				4				
		4	9	5		2	7	3
		9		6	1		8	
5	9	3						
4								6
						8	5	2
	2		5	7		3		
8	6	7		3	4	5		
				2				

hard

7	2		8					5
	4			6			9	
				5		7	8	
		5						3
	8	9	3		7	4	5	
3						9		
	1	2		3				
	5			7			6	
6					4		2	8

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You'll gain valuable information if you discuss your financial, legal or medical concerns with an expert. It's best to know your rights before stepping into battle.

Taurus Share your thoughts with people who can contribute to your plans. Don't offer too much in return. Size up your situation, delegate tasks and stay in control.

Gemini Limitations and frustration will set in if you give someone the benefit of the doubt. Don't believe everything you hear. You are best off playing it safe.

Cancer Move forward with confidence. Trust in your ideas and bring about subtle changes that will position you for a brighter future at home and work.

Leo Fix whatever is broken and get your chores out of the way. You will feel able to pamper yourself without guilt once you have taken care of your responsibilities.

Virgo Speak up. You may not like the response you get, but it will help you put things in perspective. If someone is being pushy or forceful with you, back away.

Libra Don't rely on others to take on your responsibilities. Expect to be questioned if you aren't forthcoming about your intentions and motives. It's best to deal with matters quickly.

Scorpio Find out exactly where you stand. Make choices that will encourage a happy home life. Getting along with the people you deal with regularly will enhance your life.

Sagittarius Don't let anyone back you into a corner. Walk away from anyone putting pressure on you or trying to coax you into doing something that doesn't feel right.

Capricorn You will have a bird's-eye view of a situation that could help or hinder your plans. Use this opportunity to maneuver your way to success.

Aquarius Don't lose sight of the things in life that make you happy. Regroup and set your priorities straight. Where there is a will, there is a way. Use your imagination and experiment.

Pisces Keep your emotions under control. If you are too verbal or aggressive, you will end up being isolated. If you want to get ahead, you'll have to be a team player. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

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